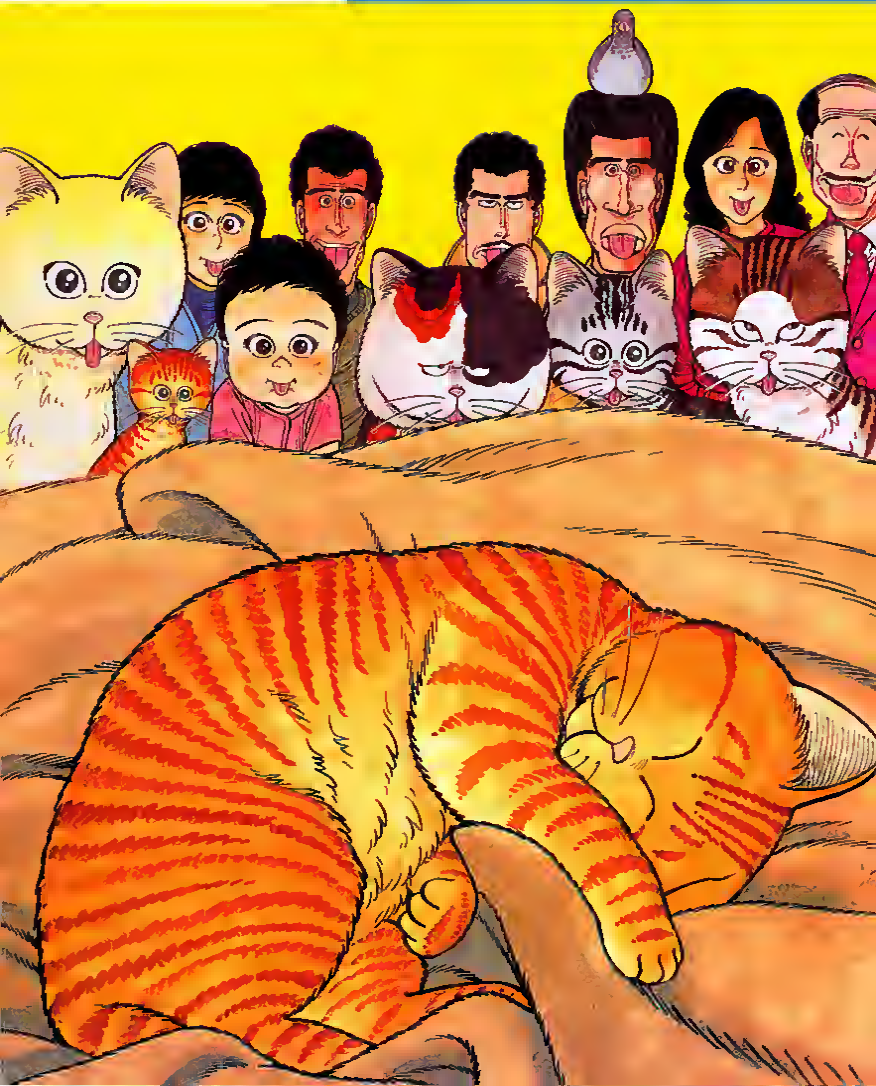
What's Michael?

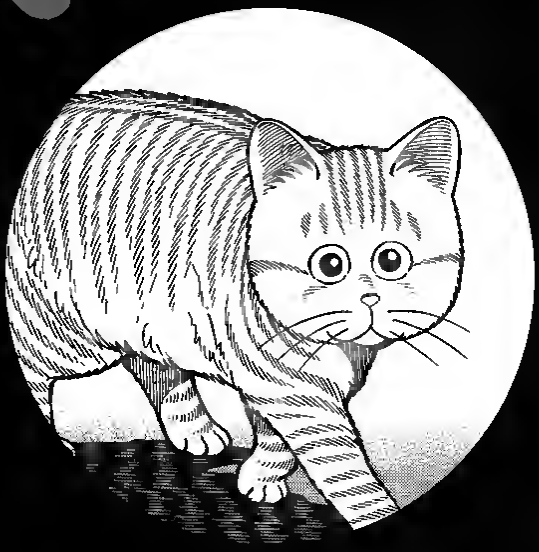
by Makoto Kobayashi

Show Time



What's Michael?

Show Time



Story and Art:
Makoto Kobayashi

Translation:
Dana Lewis, Lea Hernandez, & Toren Smith

Lettering and Retouch:
Digital Chameleon

Dark Horse Manga™

publisher
Mike Richardson

series editor
Tim Ervin-Gore

series executive editor
Toren Smith for Studio Proteus

collection editor
Chris Warner

designer and art director
Mark Cox

English-language version produced by
Studio Proteus *and*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc

What's Michael? Vol. VIII: Show Time

Story and art © 1995, 2002, 2003 by Makoto Kobayashi. All rights reserved. Originally published in Japan in 1987 in Comic Morning *by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd. This English language edition © 2002, 2003 by Studio Proteus and Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All other material © 2003 by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Dark Horse Manga™ is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Dark Horse Comics® is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved.*

This volume collects What's Michael? *issues twenty-three through twenty-seven and twenty-nine through thirty-one of the Dark Horse comic-book series* Super Manga Blast!

The artwork of this volume has been produced as a mirror-image of the original Japanese edition to conform to English-language standards.

Published by
Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

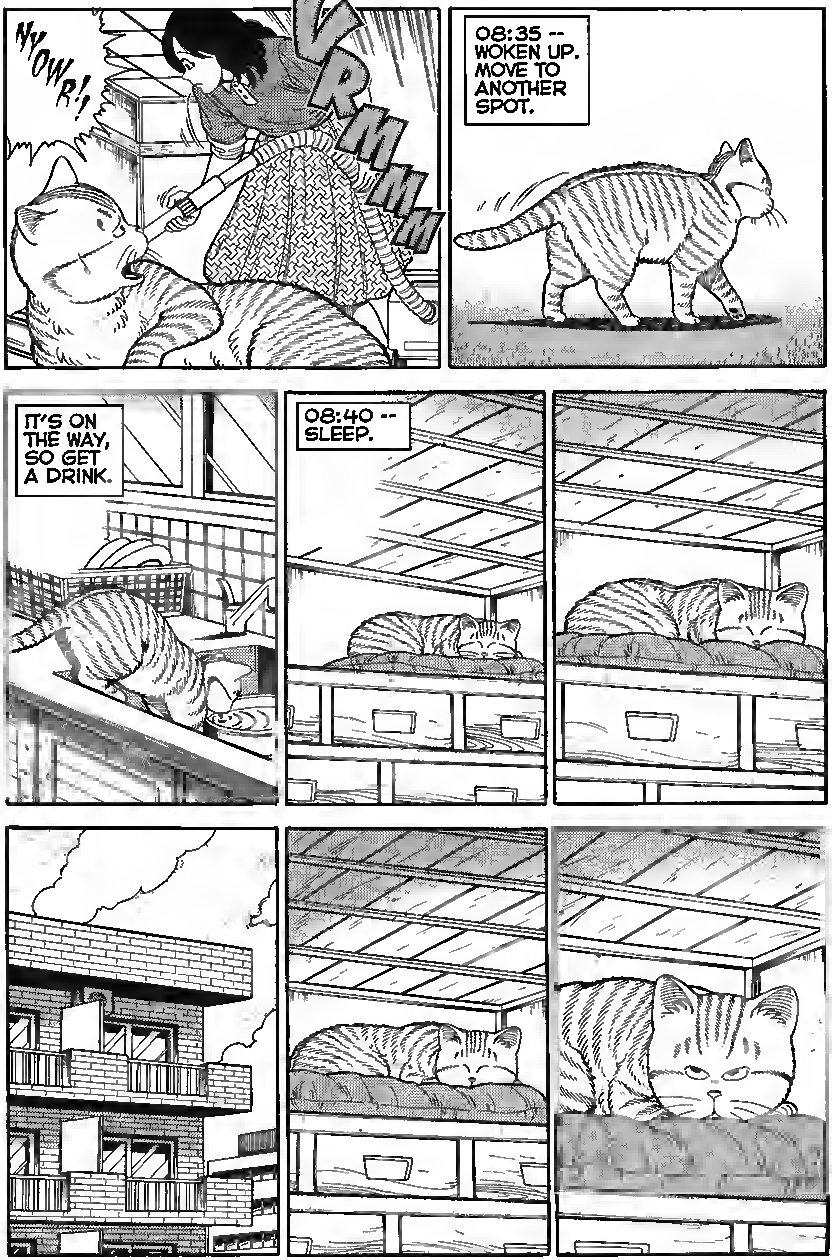
www.darkhorse.com

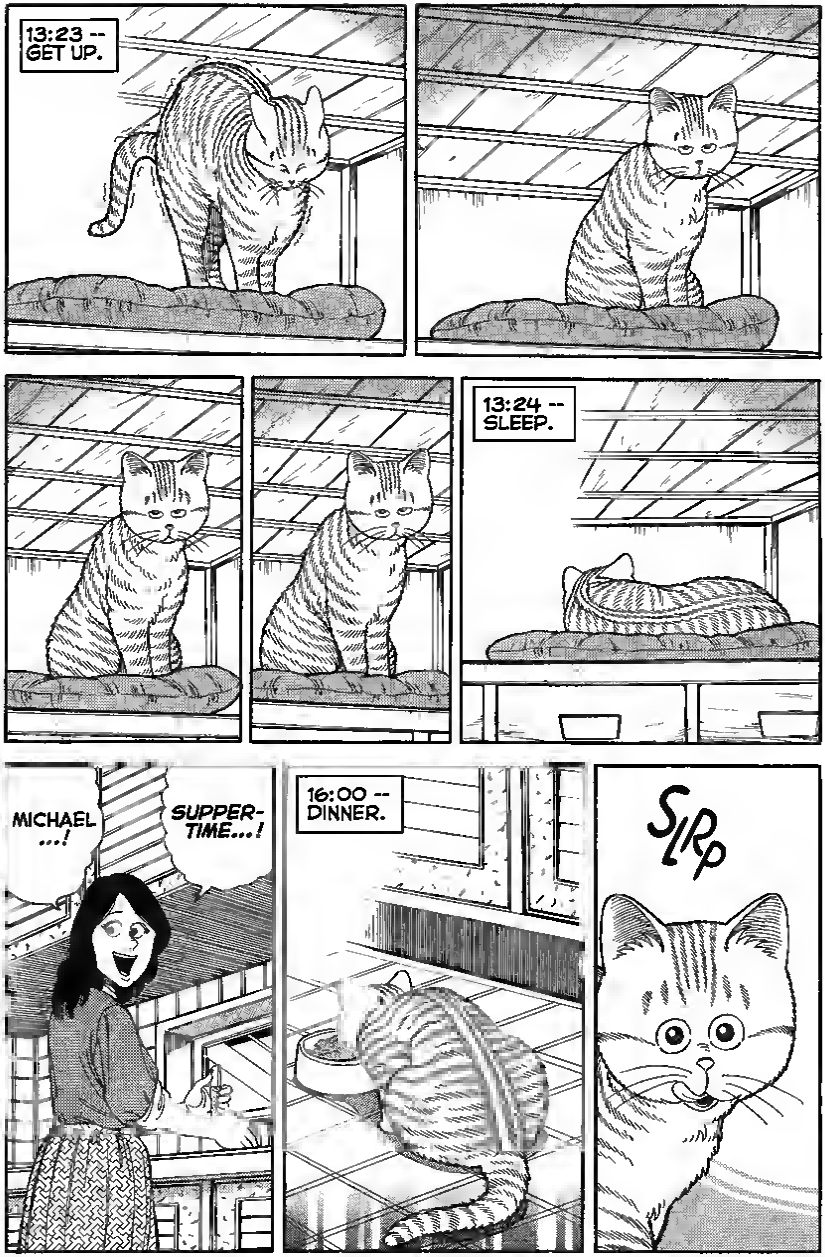
To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

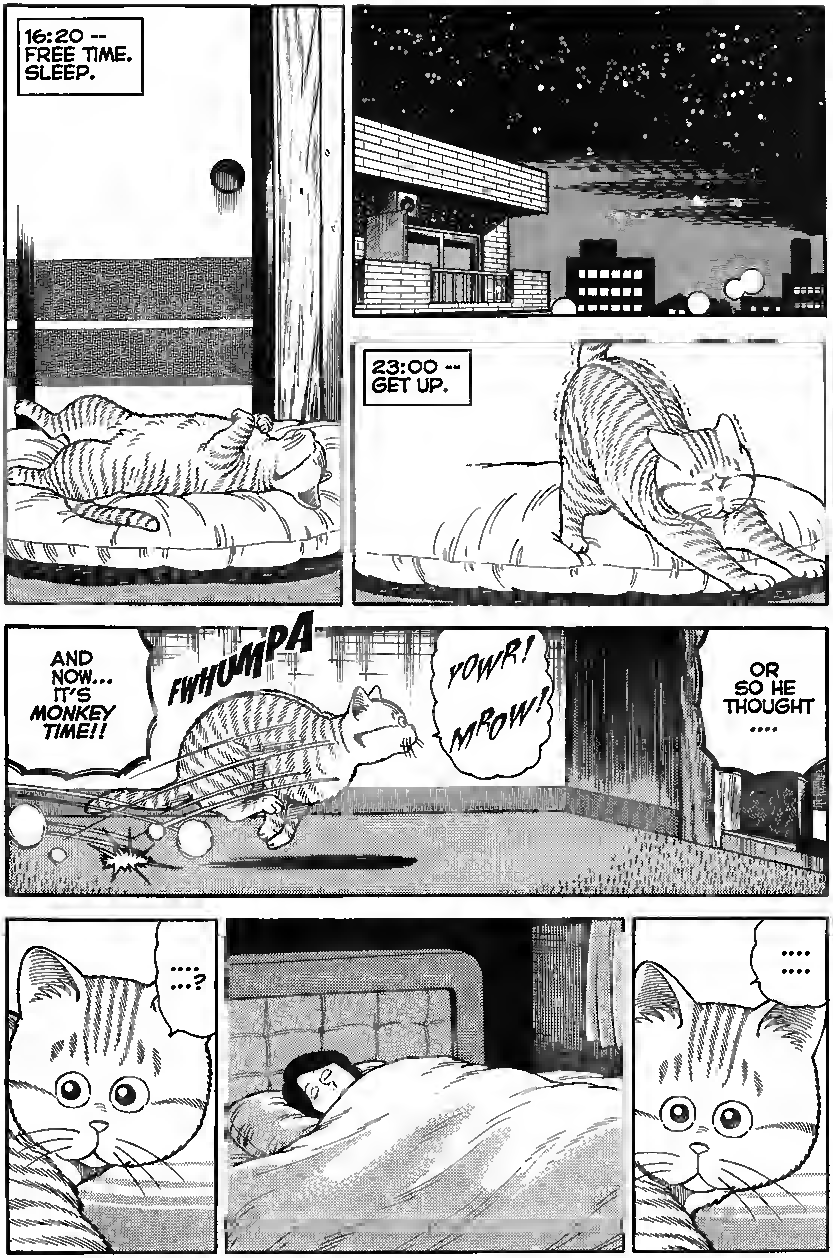
First edition: September 2003
ISBN: 1-56971-972-1

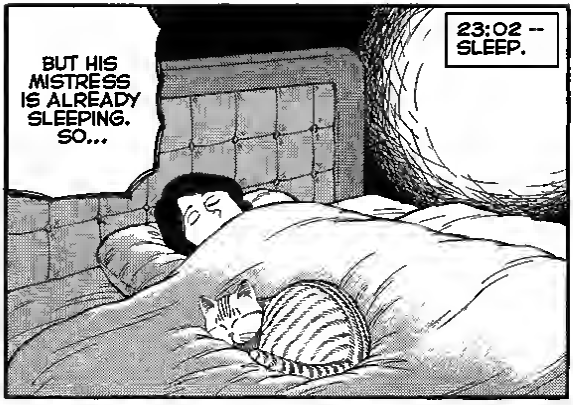
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Canada

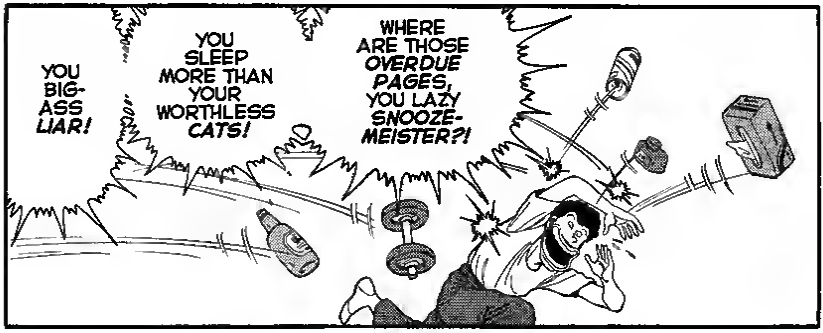

HYOWR!!
VRMMM
08:35 -- WOKEN UP. MOVE TO ANOTHER SPOT.
IT'S ON THE WAY, SO GET A DRINK.
08:40 -- SLEEP.


13:23 -- GET UP.
13:24 -- SLEEP.
MICHAEL...!
SUPPER-TIME...!
16:00 -- DINNER.
SLRP

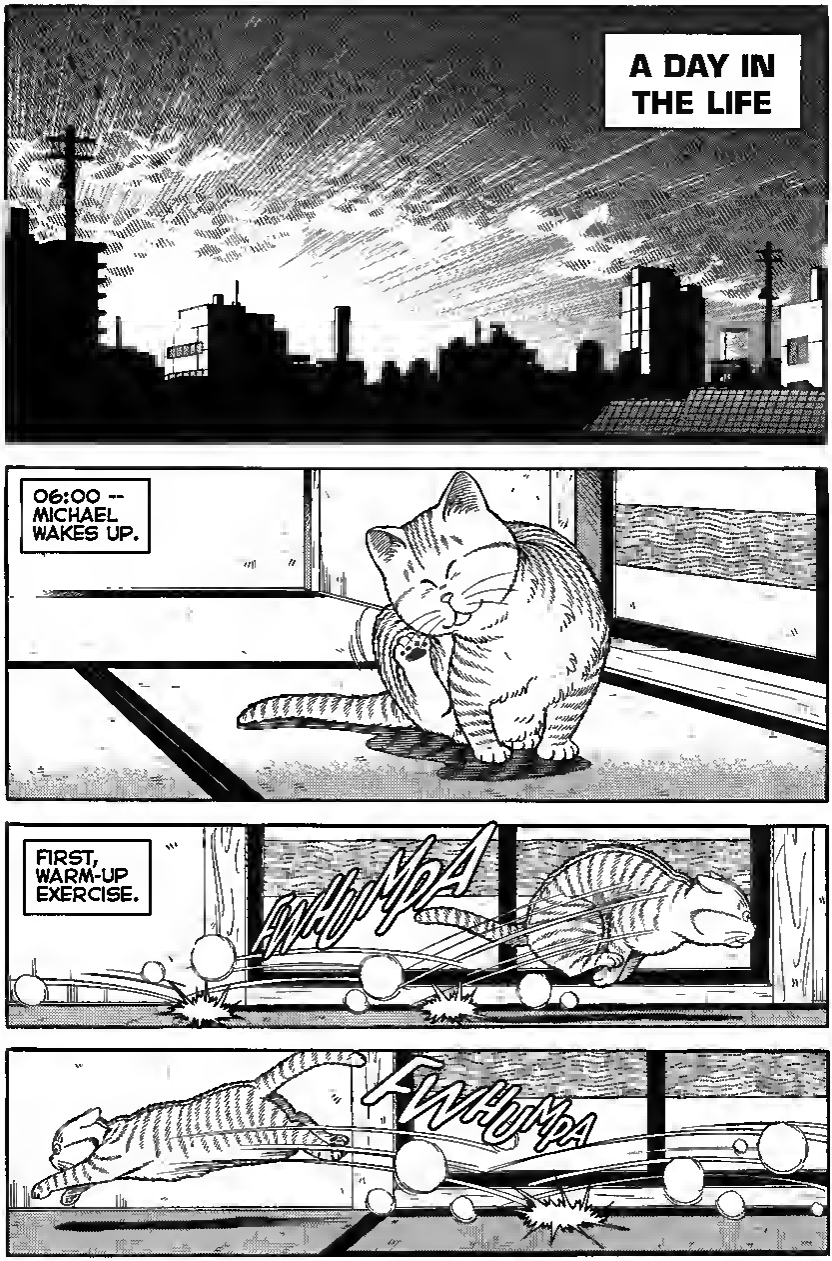

16:20 -- FREE TIME. SLEEP.
23:00 -- GET UP.
AND NOW... IT'S MONKEY TIME!!
FWHUMPA
YOWR! MROW!
OR SO HE THOUGHT ....
....?
....
....

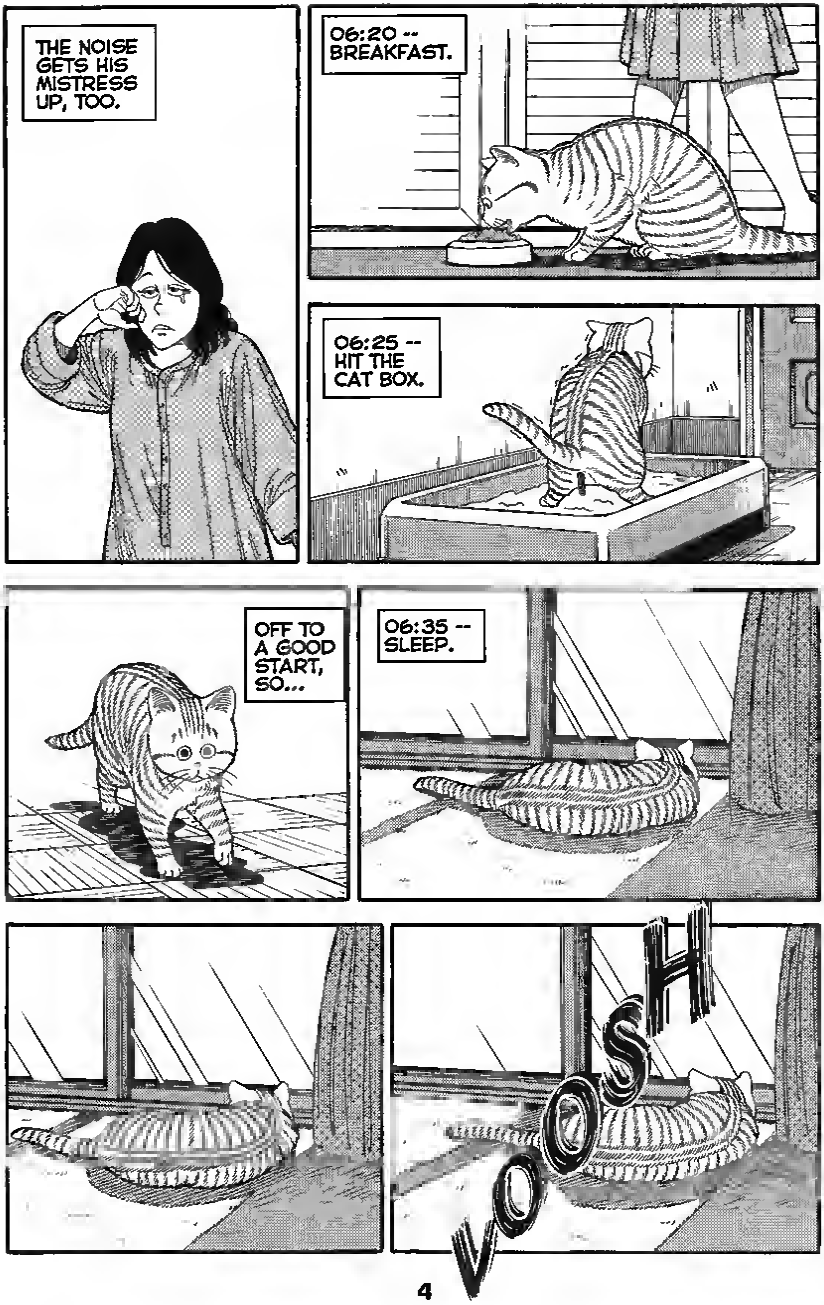


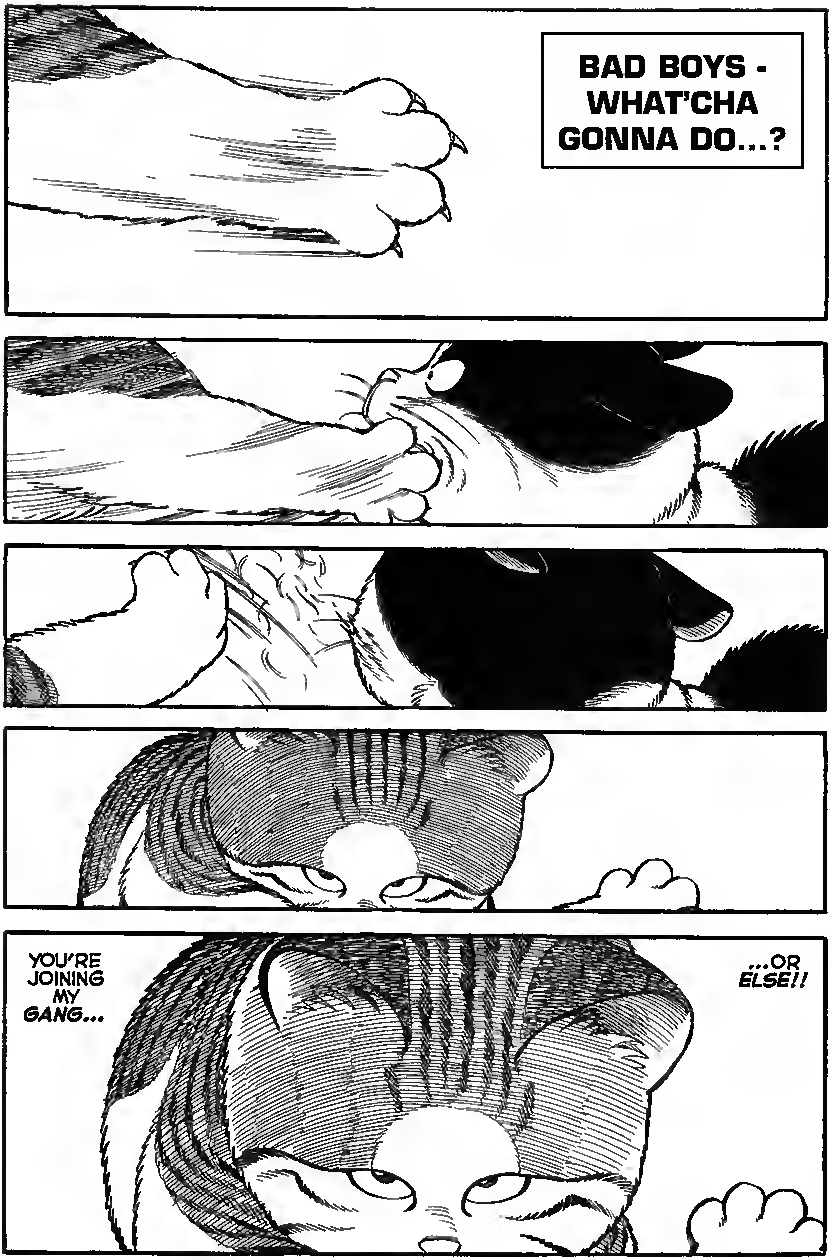
AND SO, IN THIS WAY, A CAT SPENDS HIS ENTIRE DAY SLEEPING.



THE END


A DAY IN THE LIFE
06:00 -- MICHAEL WAKES UP.
FIRST, WARM-UP EXERCISE.
AWHUMPA
AWHUMPA


THE NOISE GETS HIS MISTRESS UP, TOO.
06:20 -- BREAKFAST.
06:25 -- HIT THE CAT BOX.
OFF TO A GOOD START, SO...
06:35 -- SLEEP.
VOOSH


BAD BOYS - WHAT'CHA GONNA DO...?
YOU'RE JOINING MY GANG...
...OR ELSE!!

DR. "MAC" KONBAYASHI, *FELINE SOCIOLOGIST*, RECALLS THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THAT DAY.

SPIKE ...?

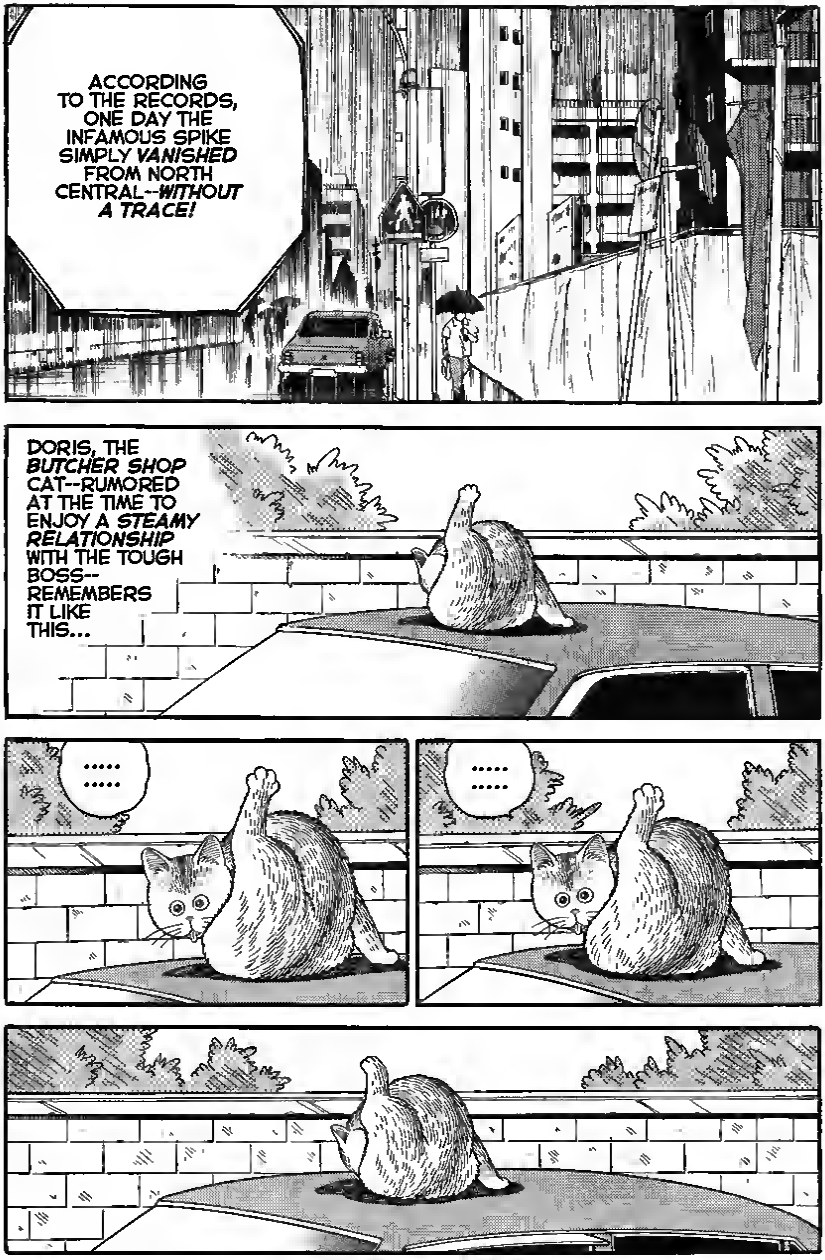
....
....

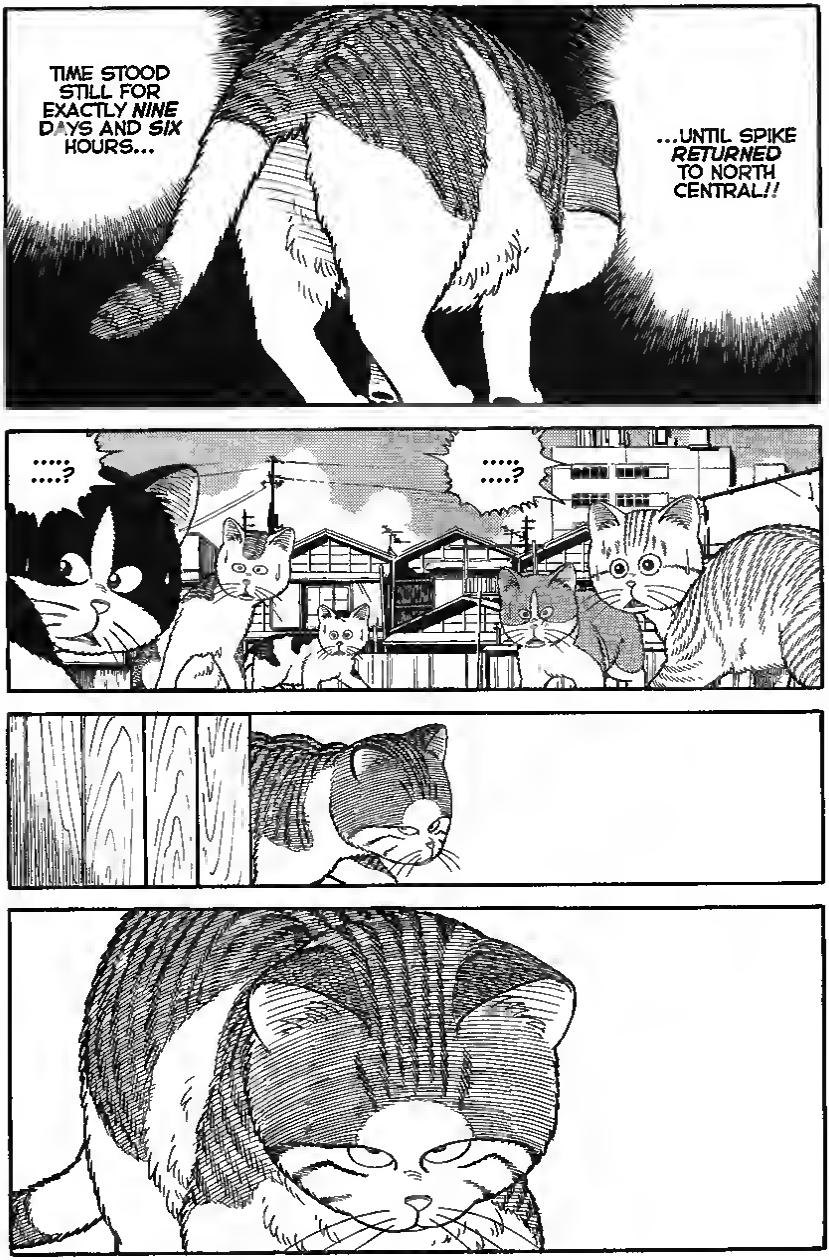
WHOOSH

AH, YES...SPIKE. HE WAS THE "*BIG BOSS*" OF NORTH CENTRAL, WASN'T HE?

YES, HMM... SPIKE...

WELL, SOCIETY IS TO BLAME... ISN'T IT?

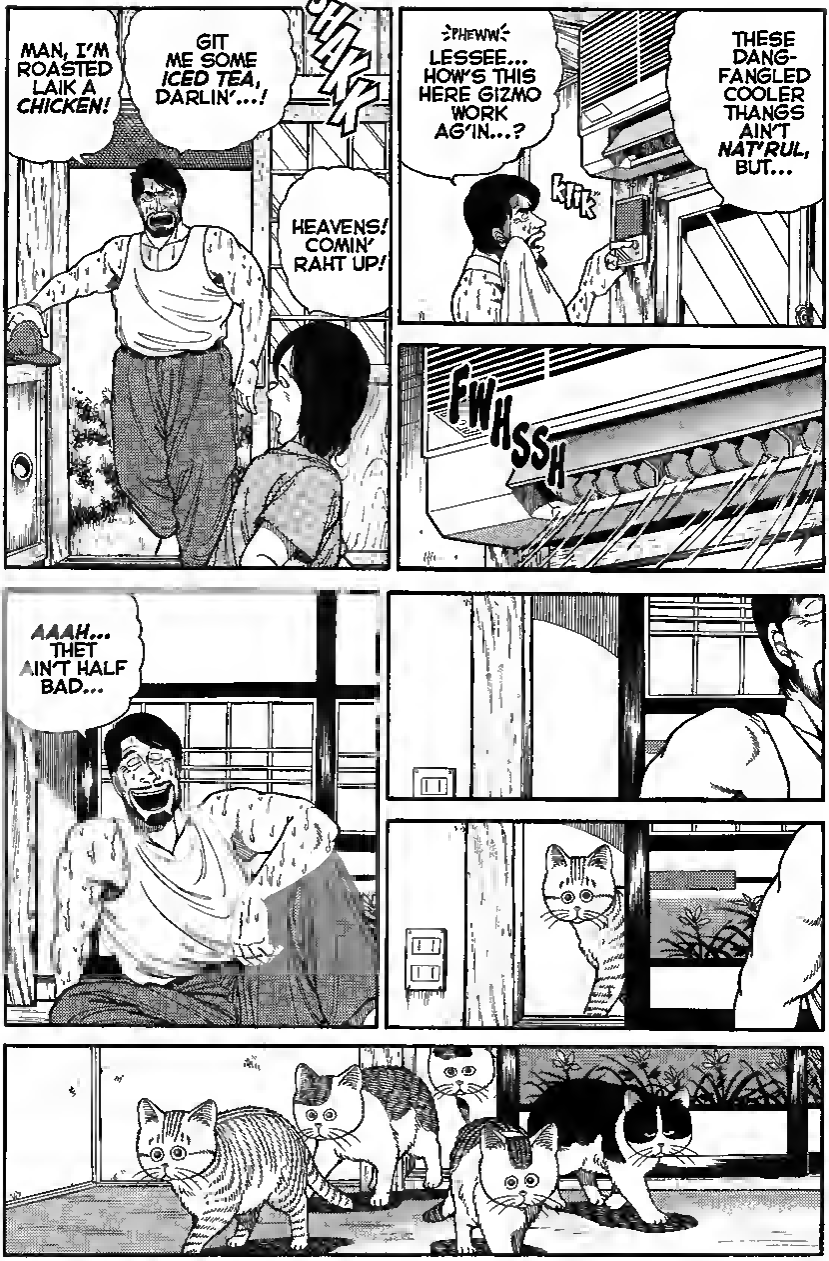

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS, ONE DAY THE INFAMOUS SPIKE SIMPLY *VANISHED* FROM NORTH CENTRAL--*WITHOUT A TRACE!*
DORIS, THE *BUTCHER SHOP* CAT--RUMORED AT THE TIME TO ENJOY A *STEAMY RELATIONSHIP* WITH THE TOUGH BOSS-- REMEMBERS IT LIKE THIS...
.....
.....
.....
.....


TIME STOOD STILL FOR EXACTLY *NINE* DAYS AND *SIX* HOURS...
...UNTIL SPIKE *RETURNED* TO NORTH CENTRAL!!
.....?
.....?

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOSS DURING THAT MISSING TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO HOURS?! WHERE DID HE GO? WHAT DID HE DO?!
RYOICHI IKEGUMI, ADVISOR TO THE MISAKI JUDD CLUB, HAS THIS TO SAY...
.....
....?
HOW THE HECK WOULD I KNOW?
FINALLY, WE WERE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN THE ONE WOMAN WHO HELD THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY. NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SPIKE'S OWNER HIDEKO MATSUBARA TELLS ALL!
OH... SPIKE?
HE WAS IN THE KITTY HOSPITAL GETTING NEUTERED.
I FOUND OUT THAT RASCAL WAS OUT MAKING KITTENS ALL OVER THE PLACE AND GETTING INTO AWFUL FIGHTS! OH DEAR, OH DEAR!

.....
.....
NYOWR?
....!
....!
REPORTS MATSUBARA, "NOW MY *DARLING* SPIKE'S SUCH A *SWEET* AND *GENTLE* LITTLE KITTY!"
THE END

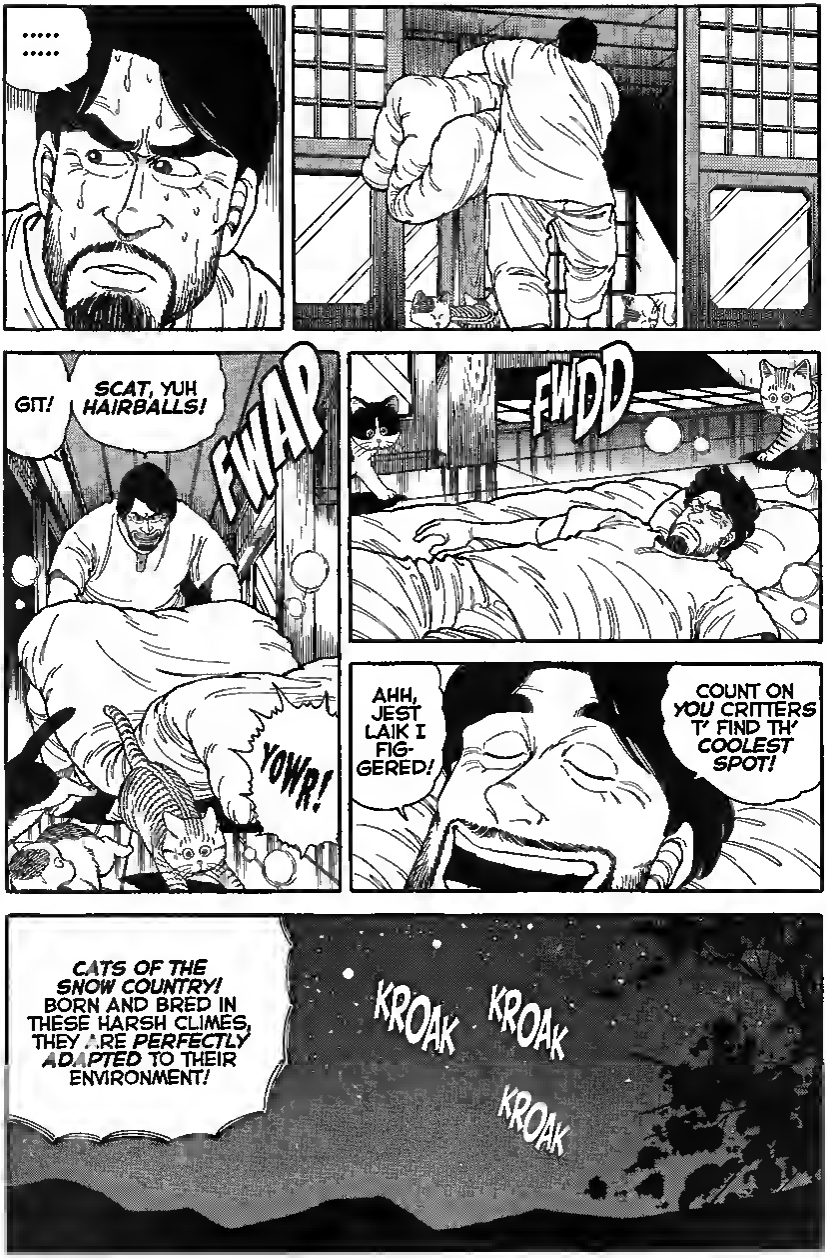
TALES OF THE SNOW COUNTRY, PART TWO: SUMMER
HIGH IN THE RUGGED MOUNTAINS, SUMMER IS SHORT, BUT BLAZING HOT.
PUTT
PUTT
THIS IS THE STORY OF A SNOW COUNTRY MAN!
klik
LIVING COURAGEOUSLY IN THIS LAND OF BRUTAL EXTREMES!
LORDY ...!
IT'S SIZZLIN' ...!


MAN, I'M ROASTED LAIK A CHICKEN!
GIT ME SOME ICED TEA, DARLIN'...!
SHAAK
HEAVENS! COMIN' RAHT UP!
PHEWW
LESSEE... HOW'S THIS HERE GIZMO WORK AG'IN...?
KRIK
THESE DANG-FANGLED COOLER THANGS AIN'T NAT'RUL, BUT...
FWHSSH
AAAH... THET AIN'T HALF BAD...

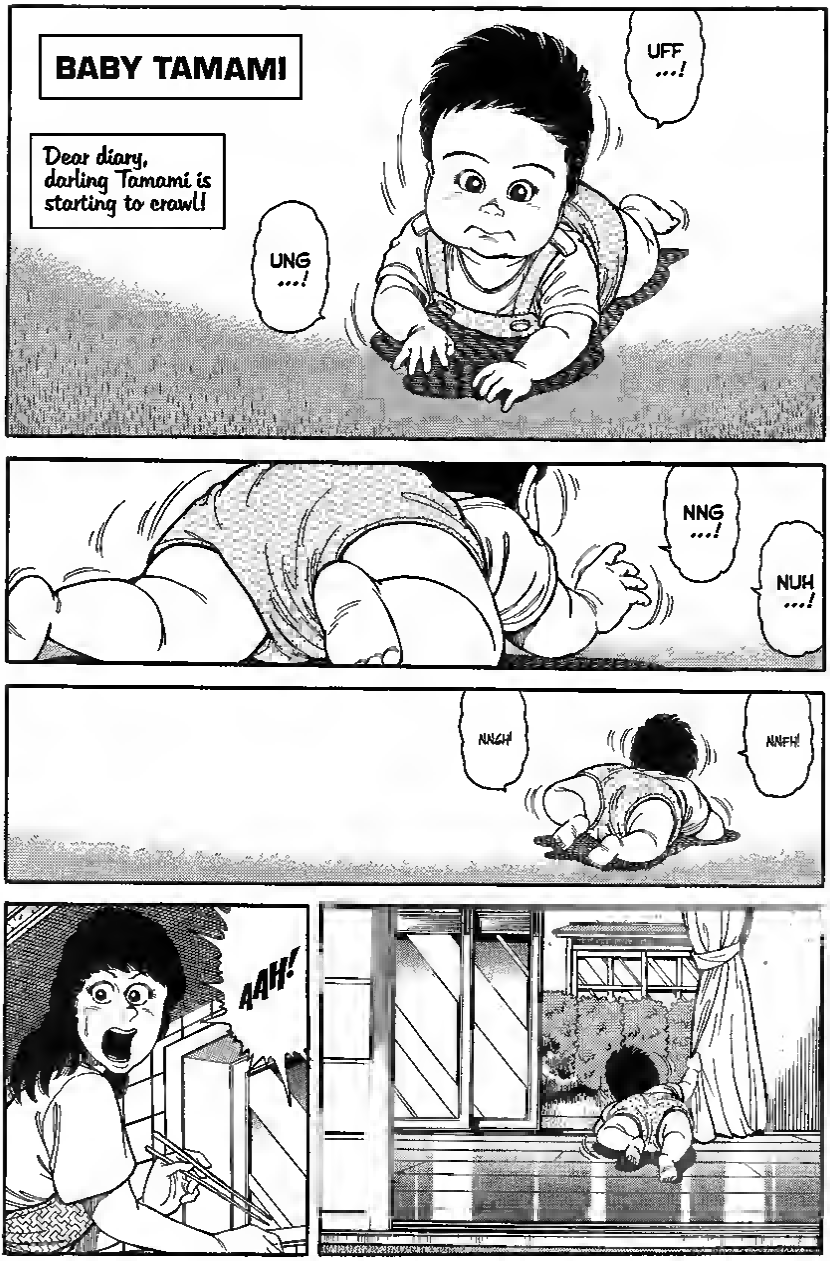
HRN ...?
.....
.....
.....
.....
klik
....
....
FSS

.....
.....
KIK
FWHSSH
.....
.....

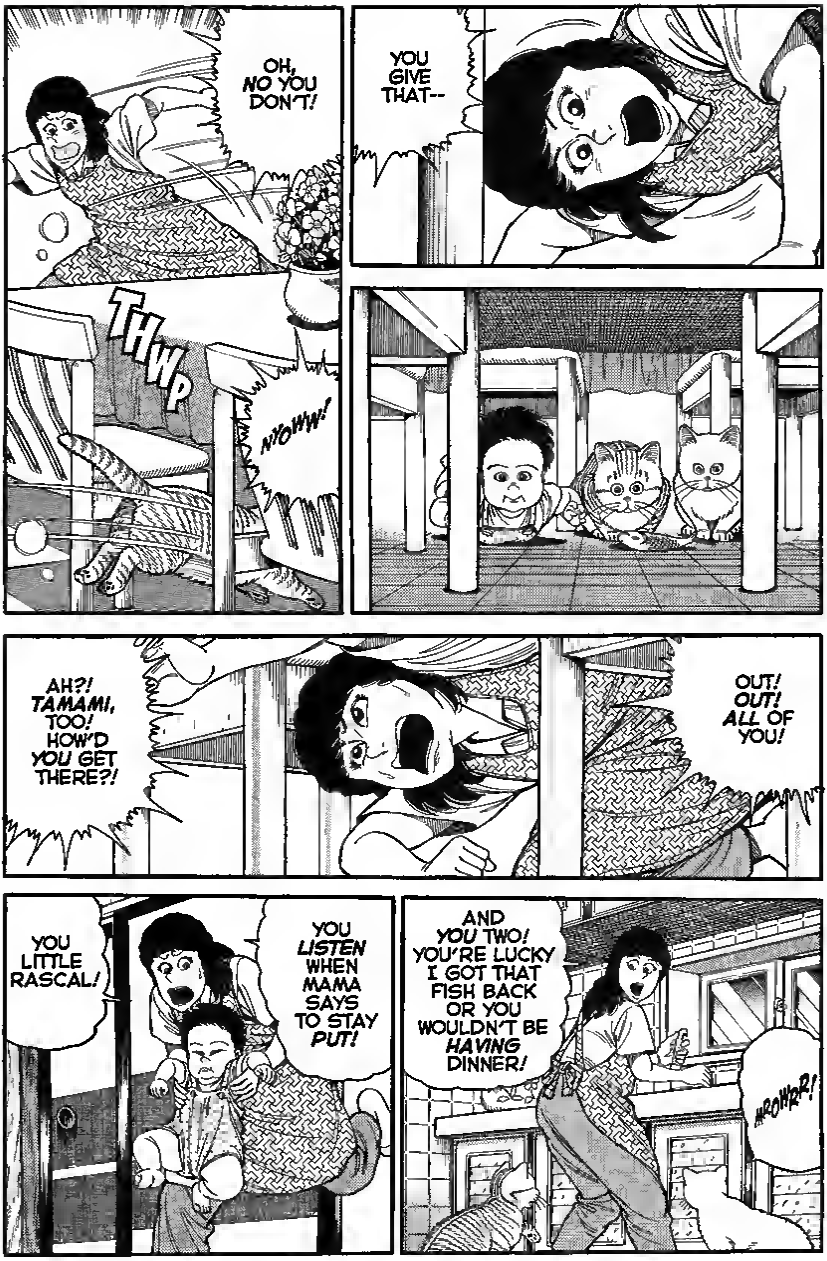
KROAK KROAK KROAK
DAG NABBIT!
GOLDURN FROGS!
TOO DURN HOT T' SLEEP ANYHOW.
HRM... .....


.....
.....
GIT!
SCAT, YUH HAIRBALLS!
FWAP
YOWR!
FWDD
AHH, JEST LAIK I FIG-GERED!
COUNT ON YOU CRITTERS T' FIND TH' COOLEST SPOT!
CATS OF THE SNOW COUNTRY! BORN AND BRED IN THESE HARSH CLIMES, THEY ARE PERFECTLY ADAPTED TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT!
KROAK
KROAK
KROAK

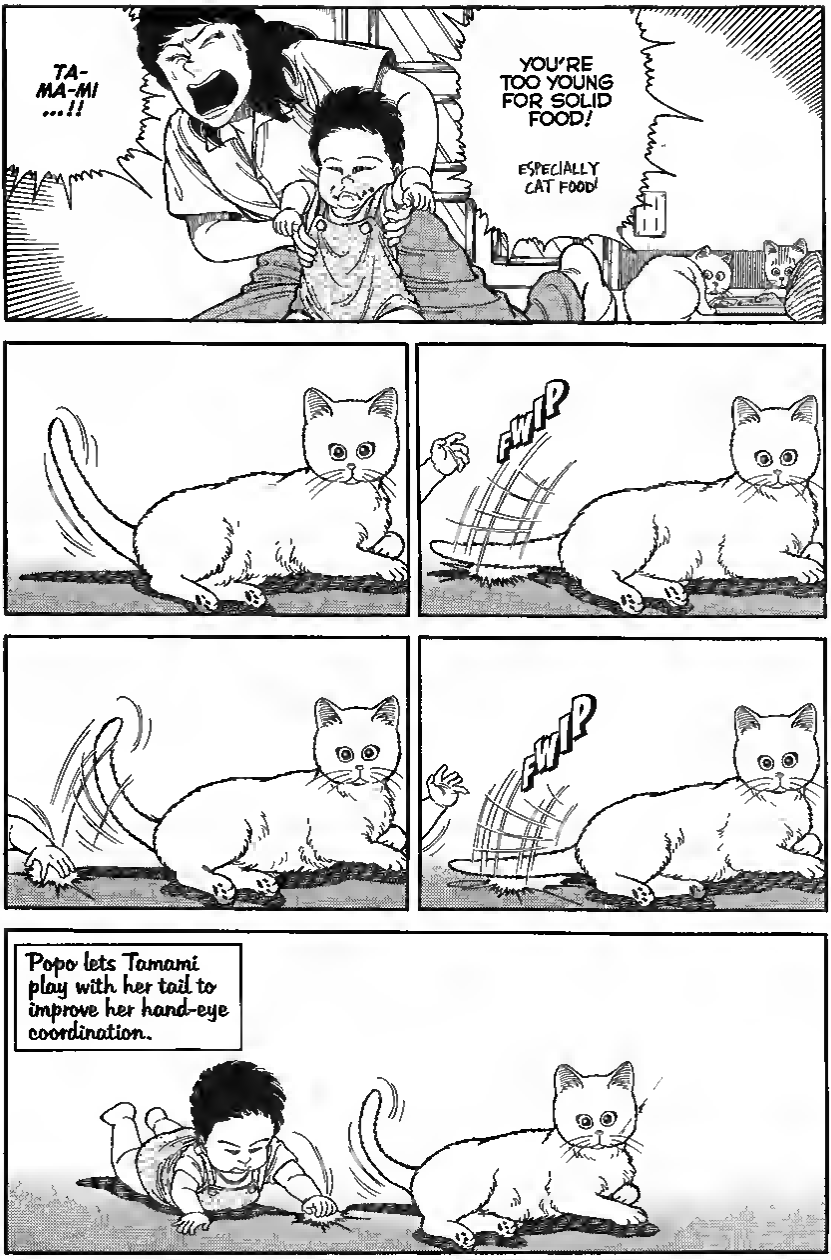
THE END


BABY TAMAMI
Dear diary, darling Tamami is starting to crawl!
UFF ...!
UNG ...!
NNG ...!
NUH ...!
NNGH
NNFH
AAH!

TAMAMI!! NO NO NOOO!
THD THD
GRR! I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU FOR ONE SECOND!
NOW YOU STAY PUT, LIKE A GOOD GIRL!
MOMMA'LL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER SHE COOKS--
OH NO ...!
YOU LITTLE SKUNK!
THD THDD
STOP STEALING OUR FOOD!


OH, NO YOU DON'T!
THWP
NYOWW!
YOU GIVE THAT--
AH?! TAMAMI, TOO! HOW'D YOU GET THERE?!
OUT! OUT! ALL OF YOU!
YOU LITTLE RASCAL!
YOU LISTEN WHEN MAMA SAYS TO STAY PUT!
AND YOU TWO! YOU'RE LUCKY I GOT THAT FISH BACK OR YOU WOULDN'T BE HAVING DINNER!
HROWR!

THERE YOU GO!
PRRRR
NOW I CAN FEED TAMAMI...
HMM ...?
AAAH!!
MNCH SLRP
PRRR PRRR

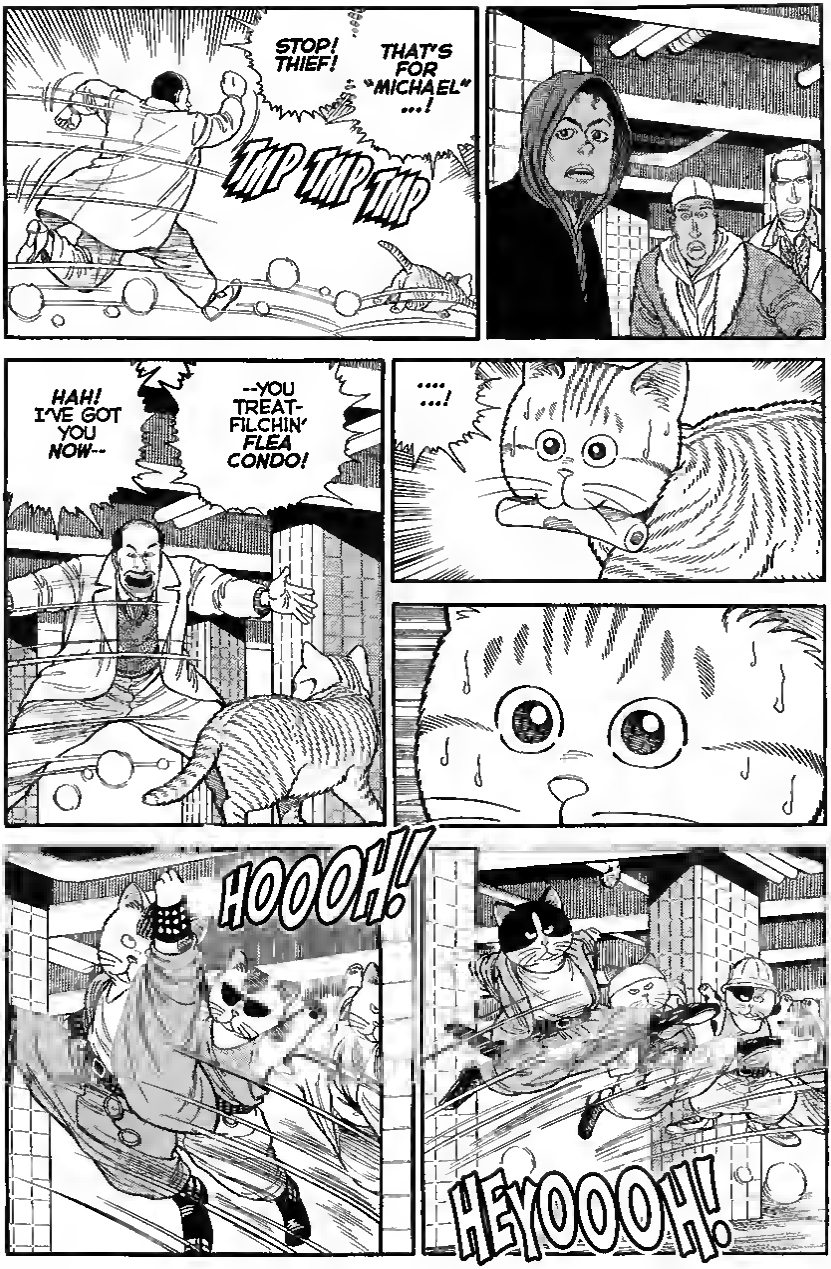

TA-
MA-MI
...!!
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR SOLID FOOD!
ESPECIALLY CAT FOOD!
FWIP
FWIP
Popo lets Tamami play with her tail to improve her hand-eye coordination.

SKSH SKSH
...and Michael is helping her to toilet-train.
I'M SO GLAD THEY'RE GETTING ALONG, BUT...
D-DEAR...? WHAT IF TAMAMI GROWS UP TO BE A... CAT-GIRL?!
EH?! WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?!
Ah, well I guess having a baby means having some worries!

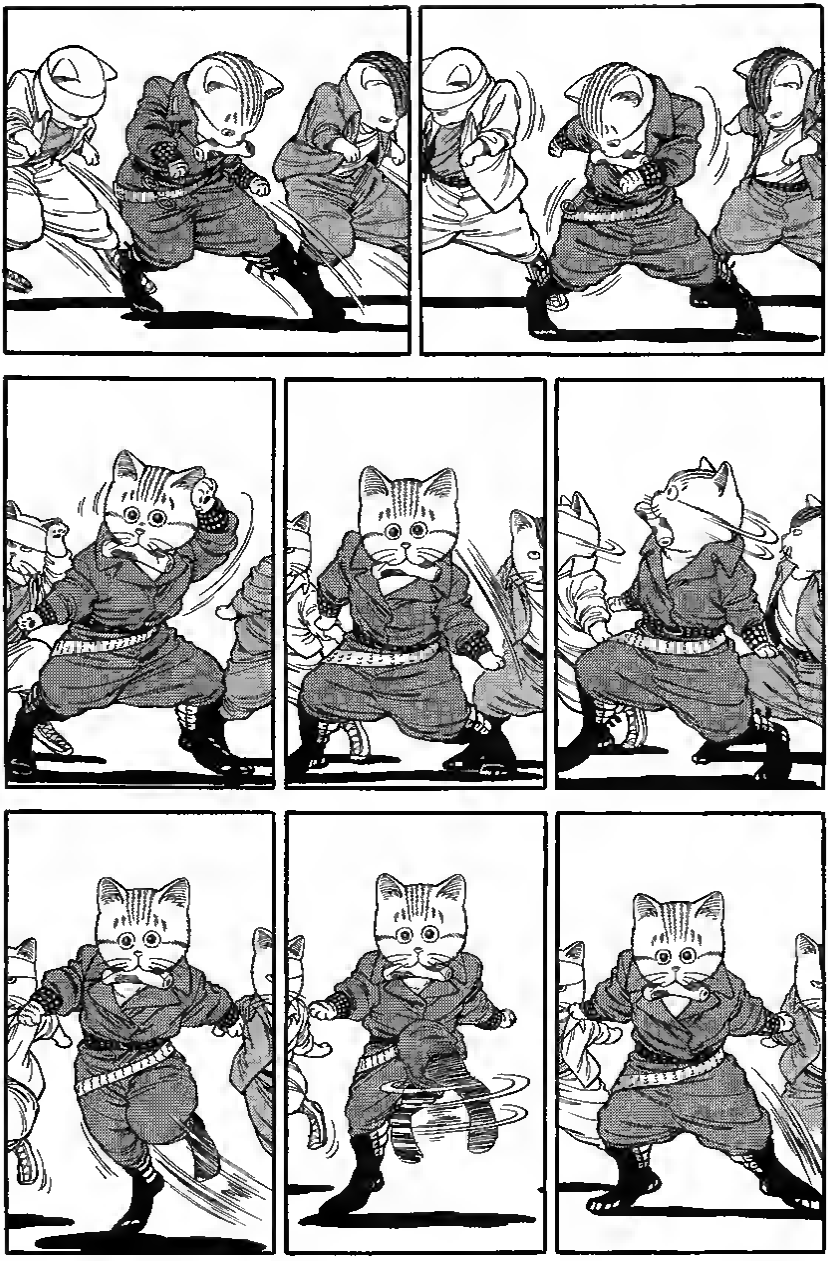
THE END

SHOW TIME

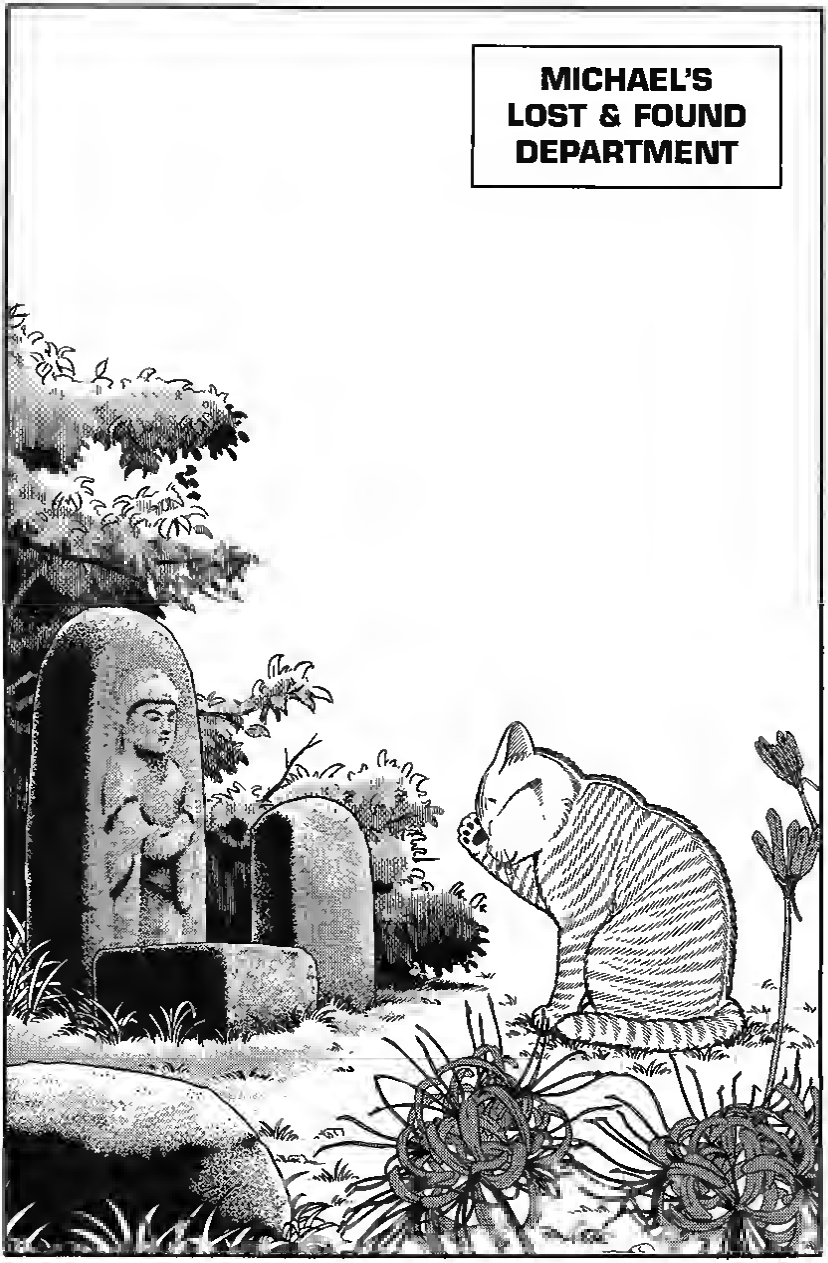
GIMME YOUR MONEY!
M-MONEY? "MICHAEL" TOLD ME TO BRING KITTY TREATS!
I DON'T WANT NO "KITTY TREATS"...! THAT'S BAD! BEAT IT, BUDDY!
I'M GOING! D-DON'T HURT ME!
OOF!
WHOO
CHOMP
NOOO!
WOSH

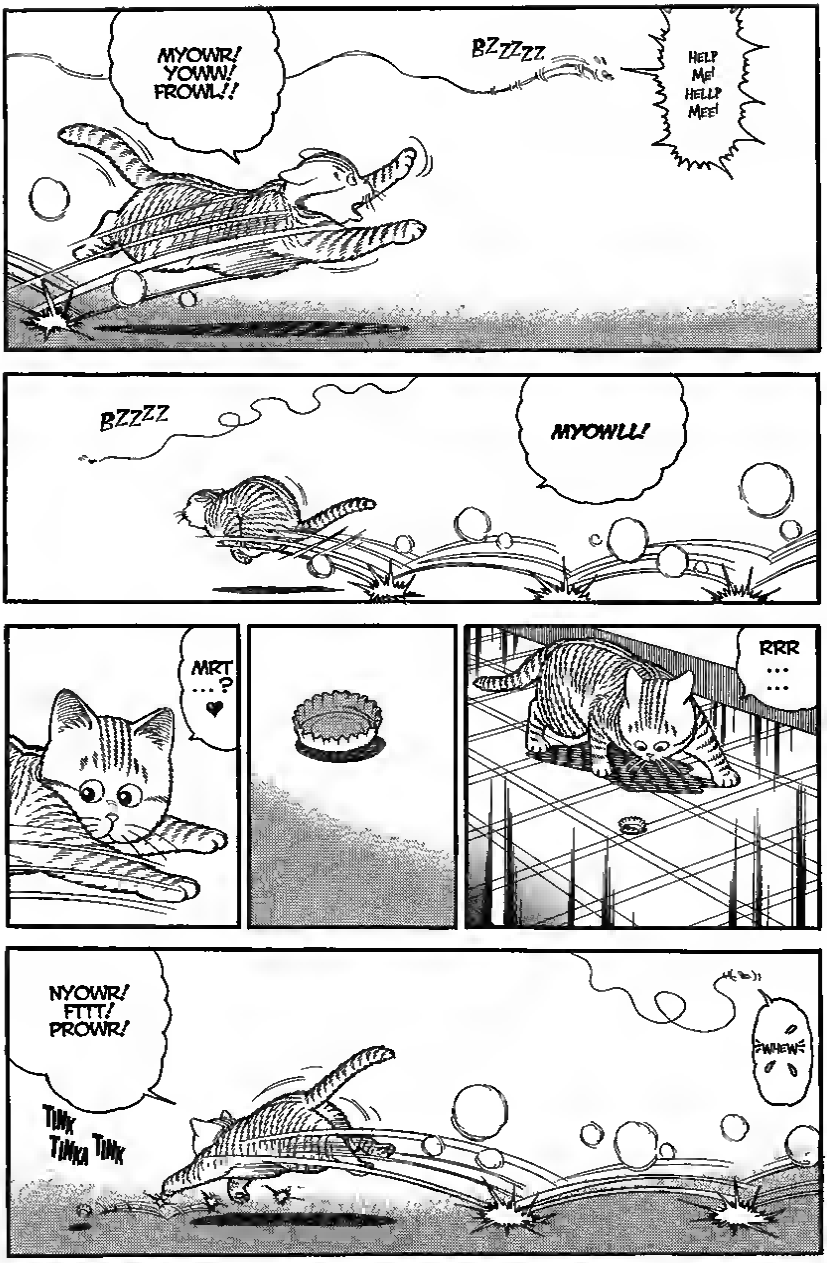

STOP! THIEF!
THAT'S FOR "MICHAEL"...!
THIP THIP THIP
HAH! I'VE GOT YOU NOW--
--YOU TREAT-FILCHIN' FLEA CONDO!
....
...!
HOOOH!
HEYOOOH!

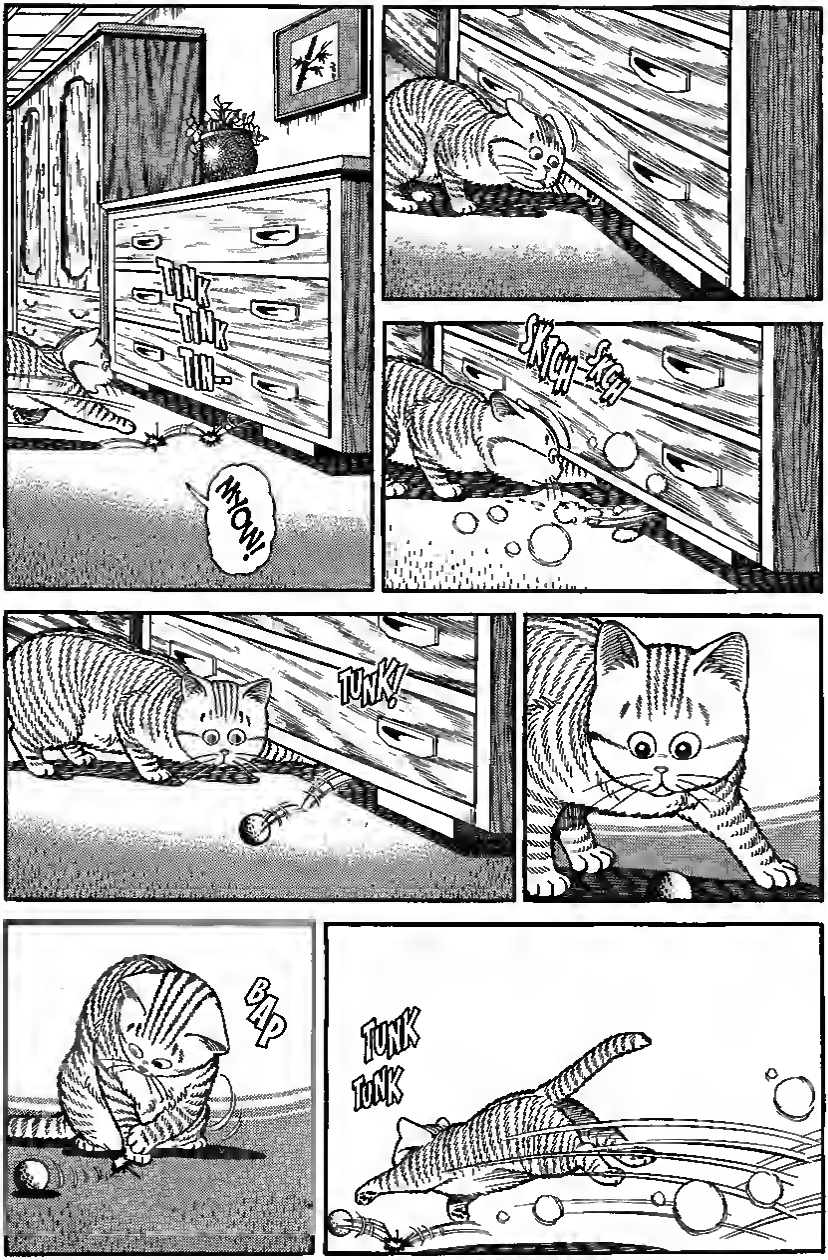
AN... AN 80'S FLASHBACK! NOOO!

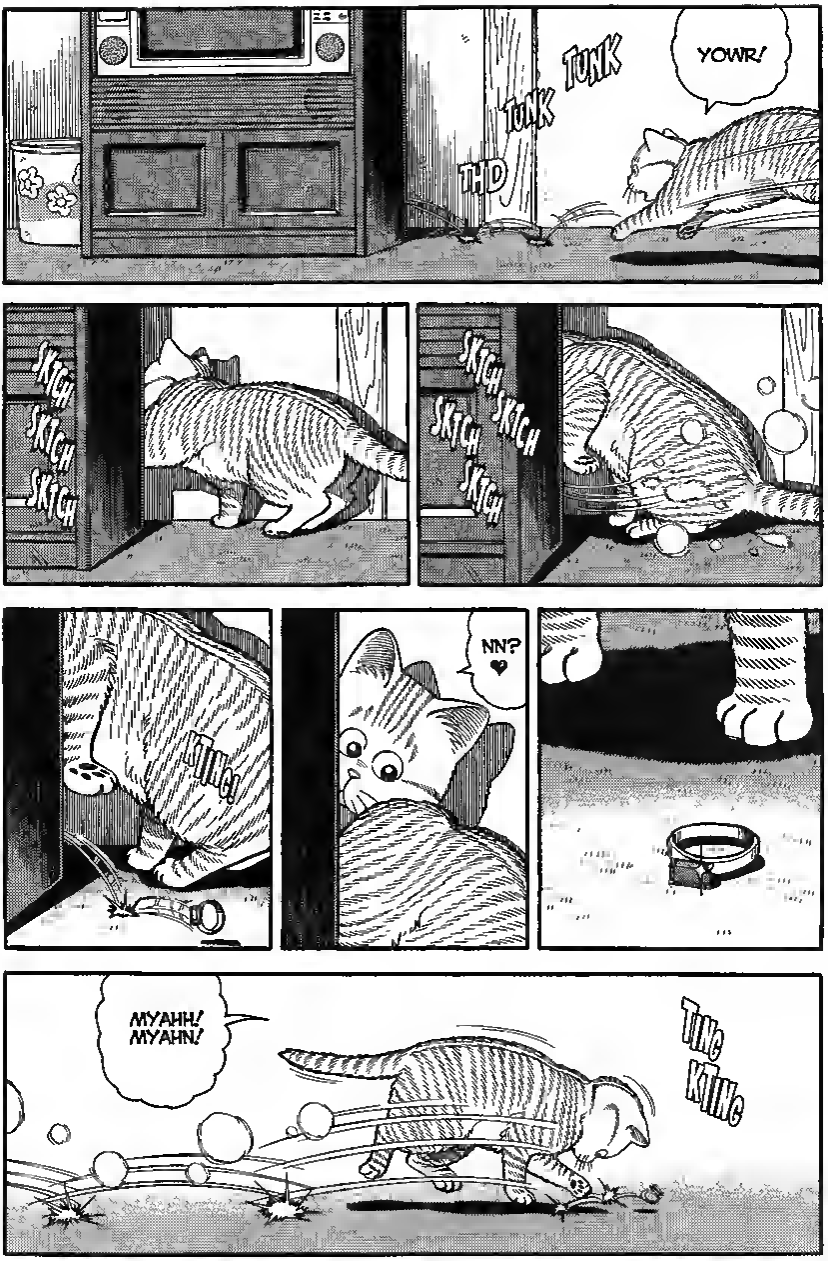


DOON DOON DOON
CHAKA!
DOON DOON DOON DOON
CHAKA!
DOON DOON DOON
CHAKA!
DOON DOON DOON DOON...
...CHAKA!
THE END


MICHAEL'S
LOST & FOUND
DEPARTMENT

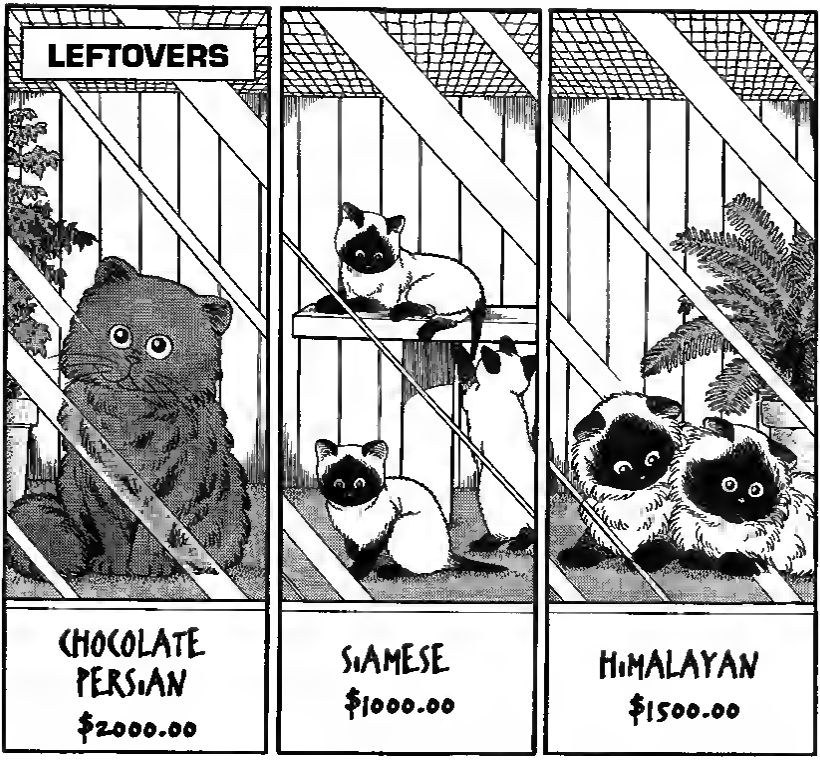

MYOWR! YOWW! PROWL!!
BZZZZZ
HELP ME! HELP ME!
BZZZZ
MYOWLL!
MRT ...?
RRR ... ...
NYOWR! FTTT! PROWR!
TINK TINK TINK
WHEW!


TINK
TINK
TINK
MOW!
SNIFF
SNIFF
TUNK!
BAP
TUNK
TUNK


THD
TUNK
TUNK
TUNK
YOWR!
SKTCH
SKTCH
SKTCH
SKTCH
SKTCH
SKTCH
SKTCH
NN?
♥
THE KITTIE
MYAHH!
MYAHN!
THE KITTIE

HMM? WHAT IN THE...
AAH! MY ENGAGEMENT RING! IT'S BEEN MISSING FOR AGES!
OH, THANK YOU, MICHAEL! YOU'RE SUCH A SMART KITTY, YES YOU ARE!
HUH! THE OL' EATIN' MACHINE IS GOOD FOR SOMETHING AFTER ALL!
MRR...?
OH, NO!
BZZZZ
MRRROW!!
WHDD
YOWRR! FROWL!

FLAPP
FLMPP
!! WHAT'S THAT?!
ACK!
LOOK AT ALL THIS CASH!!
WE AGREED I'D HANDLE THE MONEY-- AND YOU'VE BEEN HIDING SOME, YOU SNEAK!
UH... ER...
IT'S NOT... I DIDN'T... I CAN EXPLAIN!
I'LL EXPLAIN TO YOU WHEN I'M BACK FROM THE BANK!
IT WAS FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY DINNER!
I SWEAR, BABE!
MICHAEL WAS GOOD AT FINDING THINGS. LIKE TROUBLE.
THE END


LEFTOVERS
CHOCOLATE PERSIAN
$2000.00
SIAMESE
$1000.00
HIMALAYAN
$1500.00

TAA-DAA! WE'RE HEEERE, KITTIES!

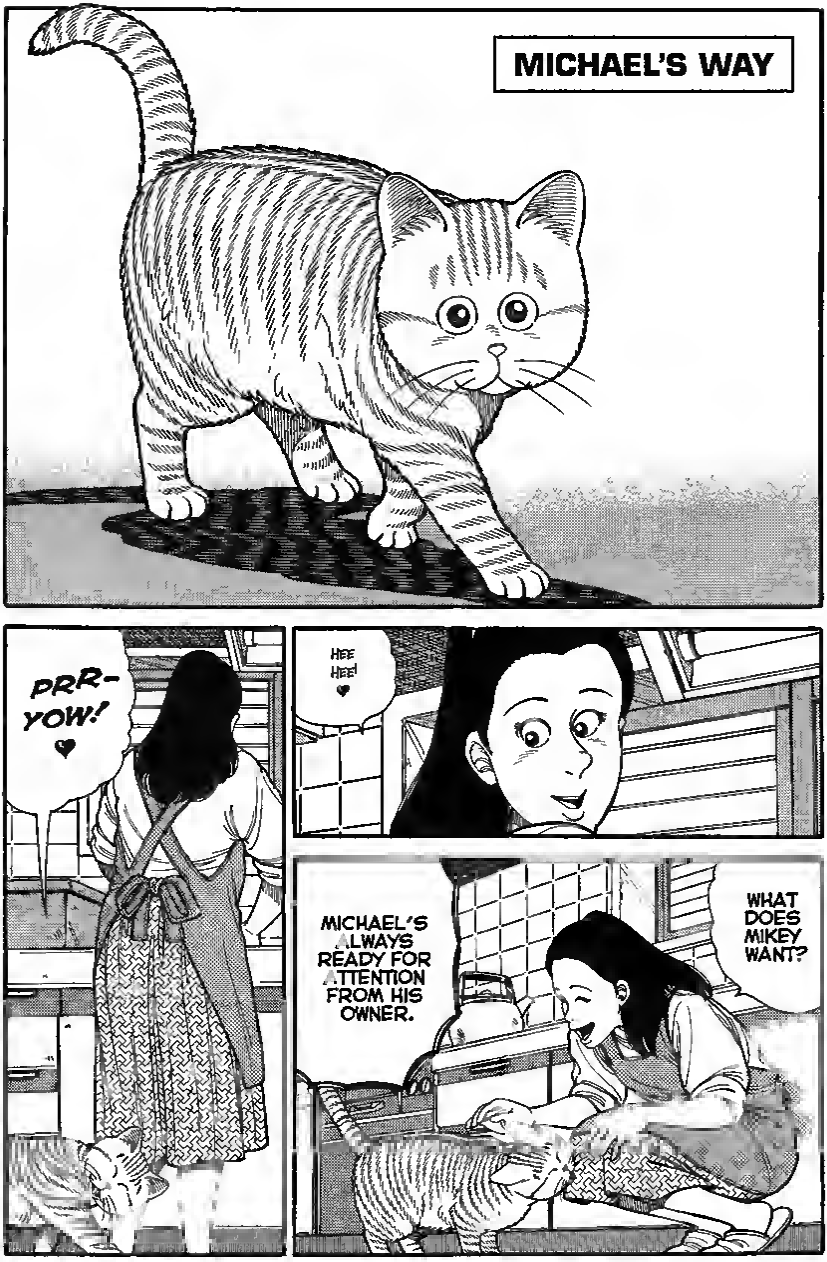
IT'S US, THE KITTY SISTERS, THE BEAUTIFUL CAT-LOVERS, HERE TO GET A NEW KITTEN!
ONLY ONE OF YOU LUCKY KITTIES WILL BE COMING HOME WITH US!
WHO WILL IT BE?
WHO IS CAT ENOUGH FOR THE KITTY SISTERS ...?!
EXCUSE US, SIR! WE WANT THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY CHEAP CAT IN THIS STORE!
UM... OKAY.
WELL, I GOT A CAT THAT'S PRETTY... UH... UNUSUAL.
ONLY A HUNDRED BUCKS, TOO... BUT SHE'S FAT--UH, I MEAN FINE.
OH MY GOSH-- ONLY ONE HUNORED DOLLARS? REALLY?
OOOH! ♥ SHOW US! SHOW US!
AS LONG AS SHE IS AN UNUSUAL AND RARE BREED!
AND A HUNDRED DOLLARS IS SUCH A BARGAIN, WE CAN GO SHOE SHOPPING LATER!
CATZILLA $100.00
UHH...
....
....

....
....
WELL ...?
ER...
THIS IS...UM... A BIT TOO UNUSUAL FOR US! HOW ABOUT THAT CHINCHILLA...?
SURE, OK.
SIGH.
DOGS CATS BIRDS
PET SHOP
ONE YEAR LATER...
LOOKIE, SWEETIE! LOOK AT THE SWEET BABY KITTY!
SEAL POINT $1400.00
PERSIAN $1500.00
SHE'S A PERSIAN!
AND THAT KITTY'S A SIAMESE!
WHAT KITTY DO YOU THINK WE'LL SEE NEXT, TAMAKO?
CATZILLA
$10.00
....
....

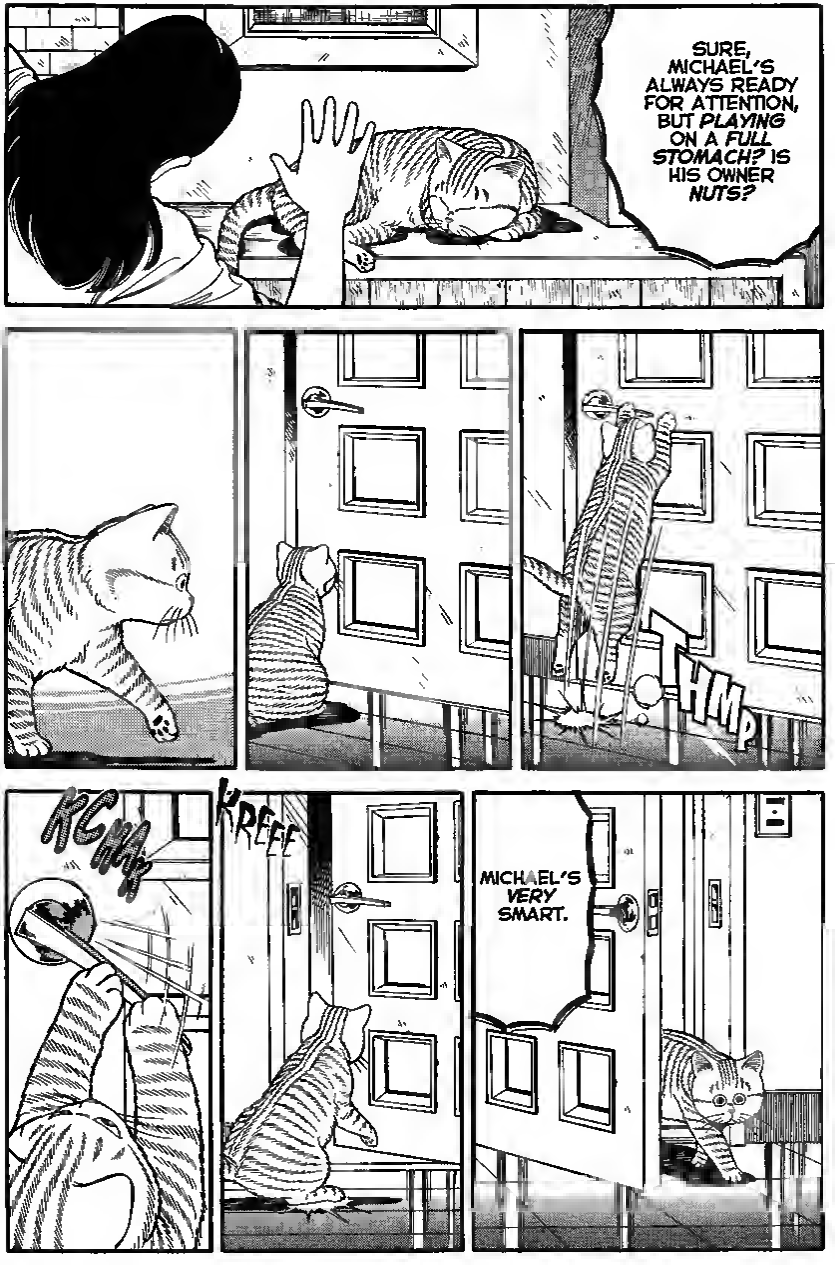
UH... UH... WAAH!
I-I'M SORRY, TAMAKO! SHHH!
TWO YEARS LATER...
S BIRDS
HOP
CAT FOO
EEK!
CATZILLA $1.00
M... MA'AM! ARE YOU OKAY?
THET... THET CRITTER!
LORD A'MIGHTY... MAH OLD TICKER...

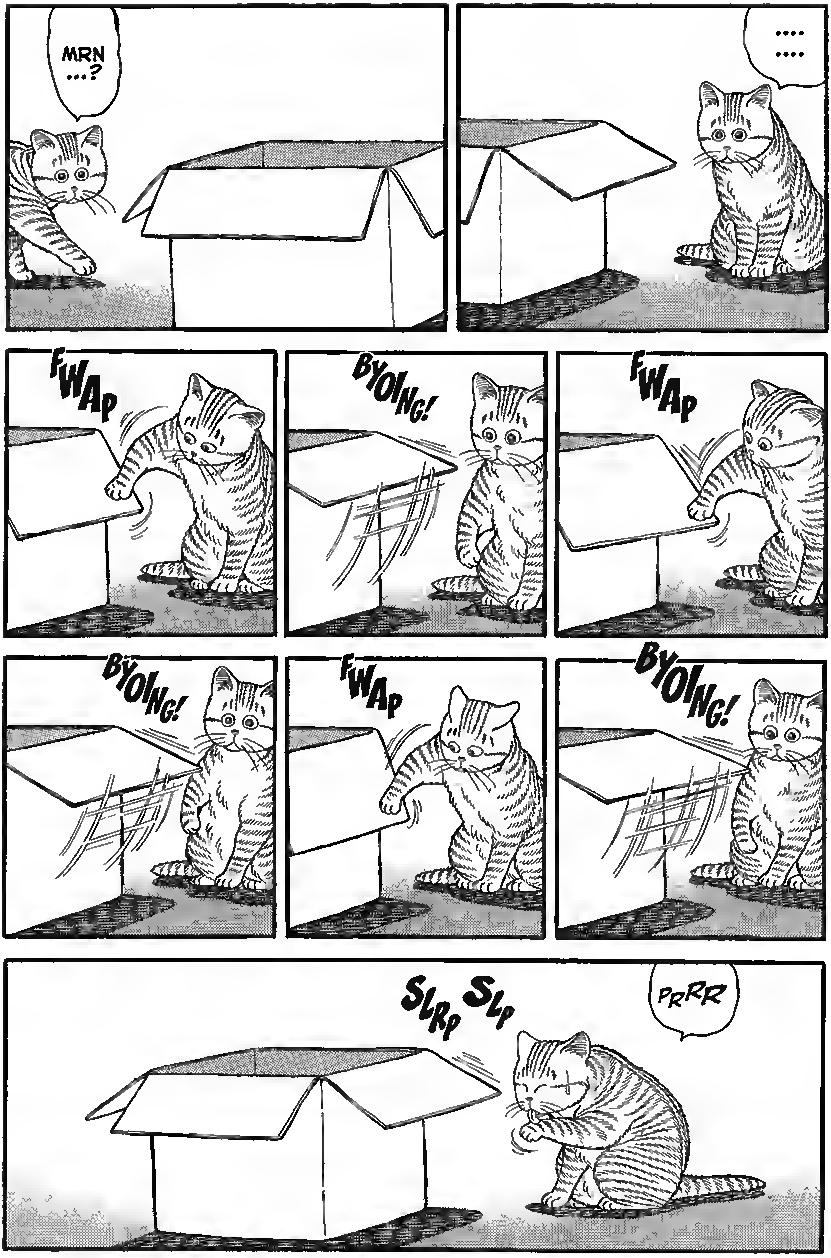
DOGS CATS BIRDS
PET SHOP
THREE YEARS LATER...
HOWDY! NICE DAY!
MORNIN'! WHATCHA NEED?
CAT FOOD
TEN TINS OF CAT FOOD.
BRAND?
YOU CARRY THE TUNA 'N' CHEESE "IGGY PUSS" ...?
YUP.
...?
CATZILLA $X0 FREE
....!

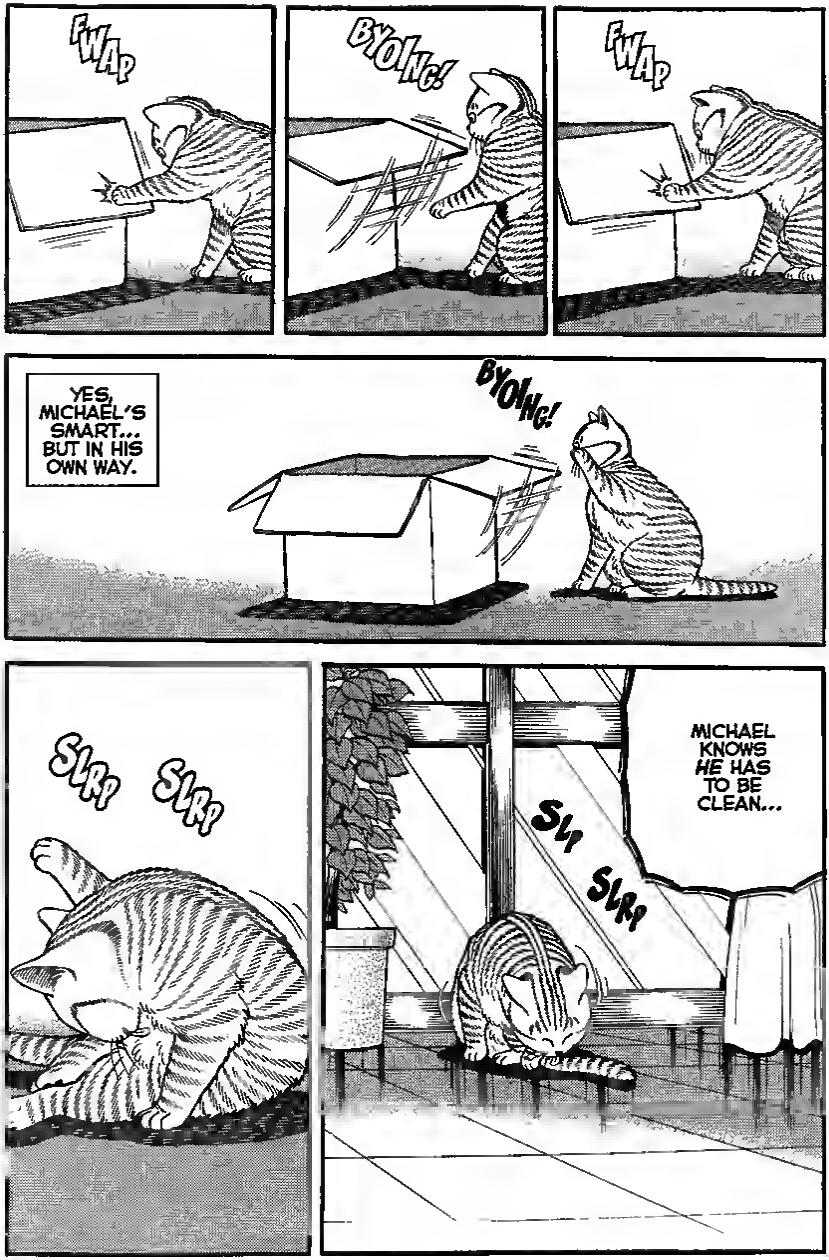
WHAT THE HECK ...?!
T FOOD
ER... THAT... THAT THING IN THE CAGE THERE... WHAT...
AT FOOD
IT'S A CAT.
TELL YA WHAT-- IF YOU TAKE IT...
...I'LL GIVE YOU THE CAT FOOD FOR NOTHIN'.
WHA ...?
ER... ....
CATZILLA $1.00 FREE
....
UH... N-NO, THANKS.
HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?
AH, WELL. TEN BUCKS EVEN.
....
THE END

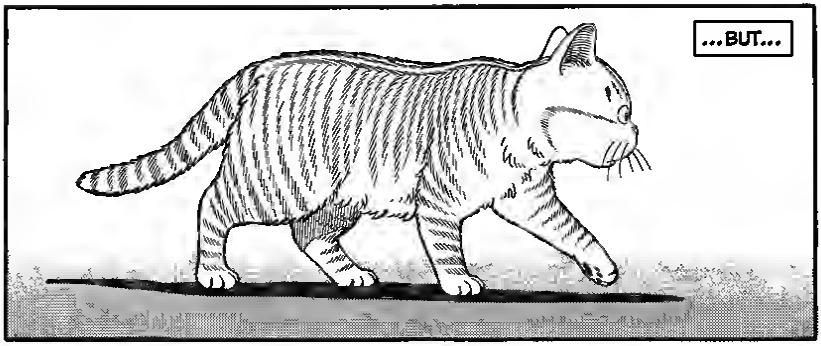

MICHAEL'S WAY
PRR-YOW!
HEE HEE!
MICHAEL'S ALWAYS READY FOR ATTENTION FROM HIS OWNER.
WHAT DOES MIKEY WANT?

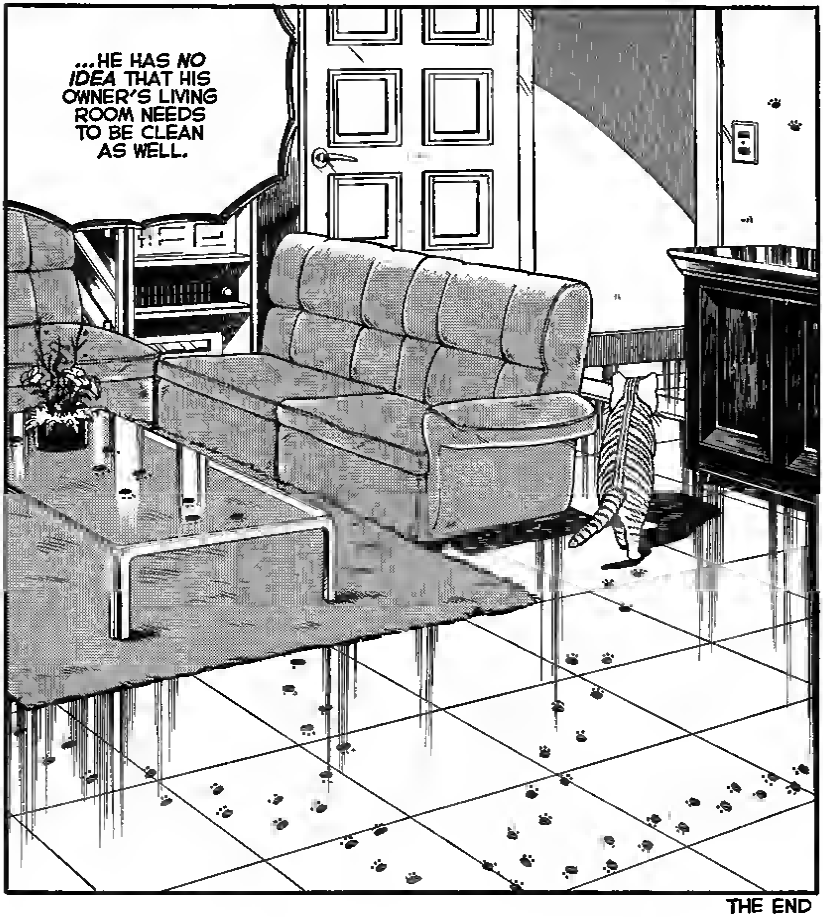
YOU WANT YOUR YUMMY FOOD? HMM?
PRRR!
HERE YOU GO!
MIAOW!
MICHAEL!
ALL DONE? LET'S PLAY!
YAWWN


SURE, MICHAEL'S ALWAYS READY FOR ATTENTION, BUT *PLAYING* ON A *FULL STOMACH?* IS HIS OWNER *NUTS?*
THMP
KREEE
MICHAEL'S *VERY* SMART.


MRN ...?
....
....
FWAP
BYOING!
FWAP
BYOING!
FWAP
BYOING!
SLRP SLP
PRRR


FWAP
BYOING!
FWAP
YES, MICHAEL'S SMART... BUT IN HIS OWN WAY.
BYOING!
SLRP SLRP
SLRP SLRP
MICHAEL KNOWS *HE* HAS TO BE CLEAN...

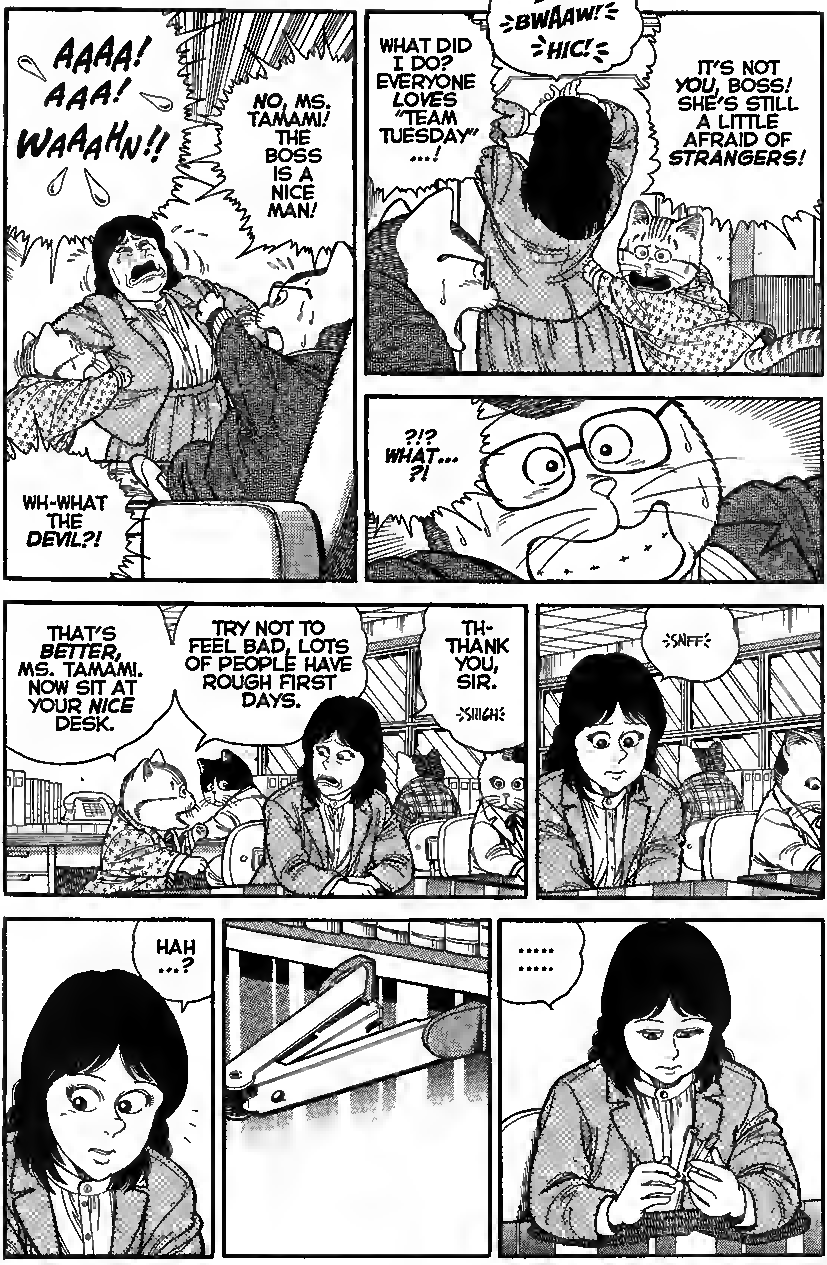

...BUT...


...HE HAS *NO IDEA* THAT HIS OWNER'S LIVING ROOM NEEDS TO BE CLEAN AS WELL.

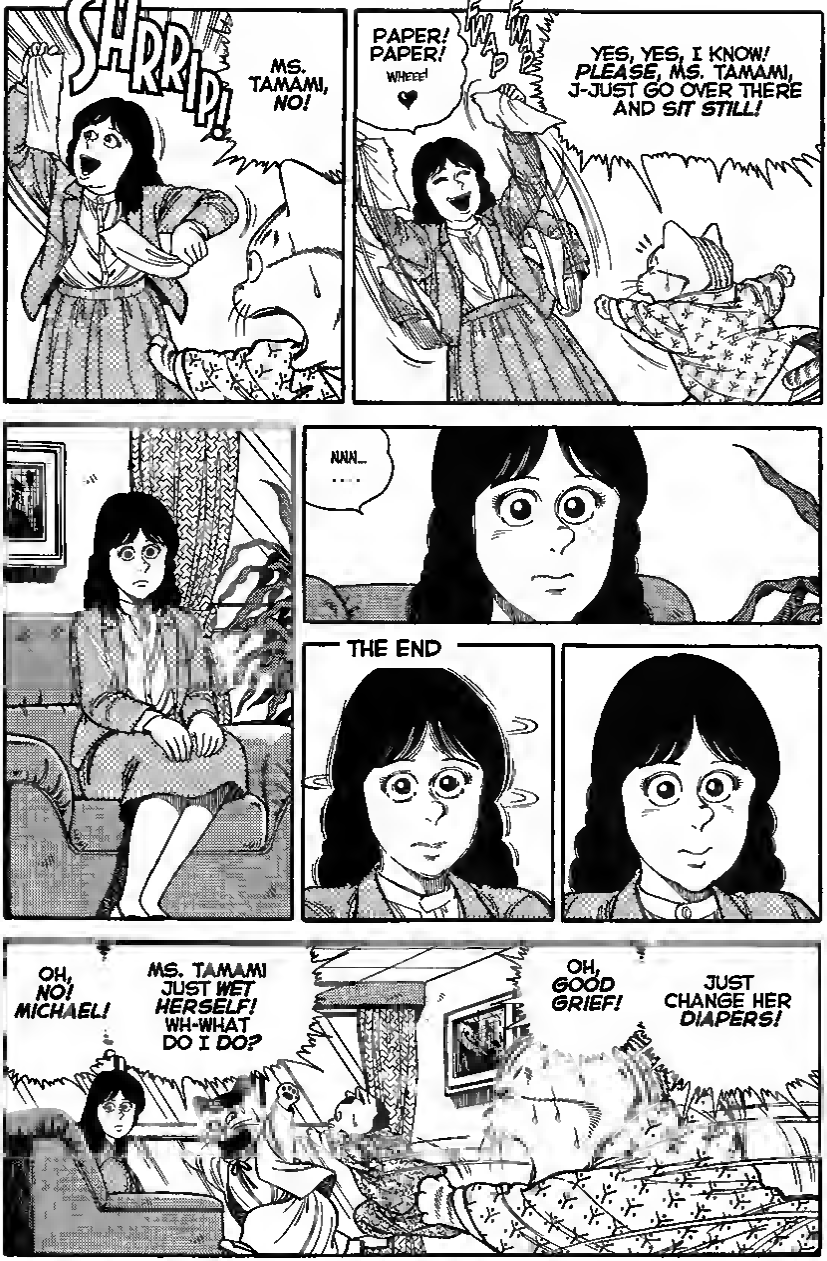
THE END

SECRETARY TAMAMI
SHE'S FINALLY ASLEEP, THANK GOODNESS.
WHEW!
WHAT A STRUGGLE!
AWW, SHE'S SO CUTE WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP. I WONDER WHAT SHE'S DREAMING ABOUT...
I BET SHE'S DREAMING ABOUT BEING ALL GROWN-UP!
HAHAHA HEE HEE!
....
....
HMM...
....

CATNATIONAL INC.
BOSS, THIS IS OUR NEW SECRE-TARY, MS. TAMAMI.
NICE TO MEET YOU, SIR!
I'M SO PLEASED TO BE A PART OF CAT-NATIONAL.
A-HURM!
WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU AS PART OF THE TEAM!
BY THE WAY, DID MICHAEL TELL YOU ABOUT "TEAMBUILDING TUESDAYS" ...?
EH... ....
NO? WELL, IT'S--
EHH.. EHH.. EHH..


AAAA!
AAA!
WAAAHN!!
NO, MS. TAMAMI! THE BOSS IS A NICE MAN!
WH-WHAT THE DEVIL?!
:SOB:
:BWAAW!:
:HIC!:
WHAT DID I DO? EVERYONE LOVES "TEAM TUESDAY" ...!
IT'S NOT YOU, BOSS! SHE'S STILL A LITTLE AFRAID OF STRANGERS!
?!? WHAT... ?!
THAT'S BETTER, MS. TAMAMI. NOW SIT AT YOUR NICE DESK.
TRY NOT TO FEEL BAD, LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE ROUGH FIRST DAYS.
TH-THANK YOU, SIR.
:SIIIGH:
:SNIFF:
HAH ...?
.....
.....

HMM...
EH...?
EEK!
NO! STAPLERS ARE NOT FOOD! SPIT IT OUT!
AH! THAT'S RIGHT! LOCK AWAY ANYTHING SHARP!
MS. TAMAMI PUTS EVERY-THING IN HER MOUTH!
YES, SIR!
MS. TAMAMI?
WOULD YOU PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ME?
YES, SIR.
HMMM?


SHRRIP!
MS. TAMAMI, NO!
PAPER! PAPER!
WHeee!
YES, YES, I KNOW! PLEASE, MS. TAMAMI, J-JUST GO OVER THERE AND SIT STILL!
NNN...
THE END
OH, NO! MICHAEL!
MS. TAMAMI JUST WET HERSELF! WH-WHAT DO I DO?
OH, GOOD GRIEF!
JUST CHANGE HER DIAPERS!

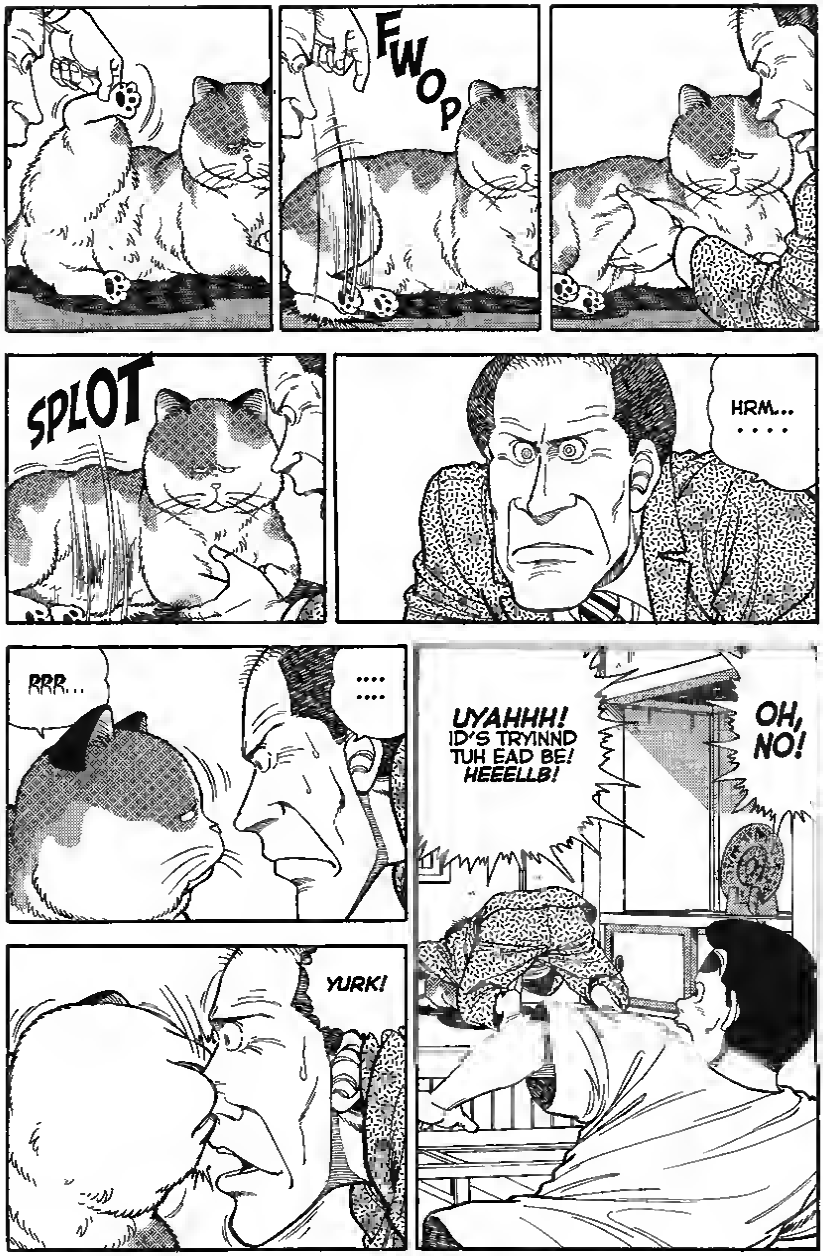
UH...
UH...
WAAH!
UU-
WAAH!
MISTER MIKE, HELP! NOW SHE'S CRYING!
OH, NO!! IS IT THREE O'CLOCK ALREADY?! WE KEPT HER UP PAST HER NAP-TIME! QUICK, PUT HER TO BED!
RRRG! WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN A BLASTED THING DONE ALL DAY! I FEEL LIKE CRYING, TOO!
ZZZzzz...

THE END

THE FUGITIVE: PART FOUR
MISTER GERARDLY, PROFESSION: *DETECTIVE*
MISSION: TO BRING FUGITIVE RICHARD KIMBLY TO *JUSTICE!*
AFTER A YEAR OF SEARCHING, GERARDLY BELIEVES HE'S GOT KIMBLY *CORNERED*. ALL THE MONTHS AND MILES HAVE BROUGHT GERARDLY TO...
SUSHI
SHAK
AFTER-NOON!
WHAT CAN I GETCHA?
NOTHING, THANKS.
I HAVE A QUESTION, THOUGH...

...I'VE BEEN TOLD THIS MAN'S BEEN SEEN AROUND HERE--DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HUH?
WHY, OF COURSE! THAT'S KENT!
YEP! WE HIRED HIM A WHILE BACK--GREAT GUY!
HE'LL BE SHOWIN' UP ANY MINUTE, HE'S OUT MAKING A DELIVERY.
HE A PAL OF YOURS?
EH?
UH... YEAH!
OLD PALS!
HEH HEH HEH!
SO IT'S "KENT" THIS TIME, EH, KIMBLY? IT'S BEEN A LONG YEAR, BUT YOUR DAYS ON THE RUN ARE OVER!
I THINK I'M HUNGRY AFTER ALL. I'LL HAVE LUNCH WHILE I WAIT FOR RICH--ER...KENT.
HOW ABOUT A SUSHI PLATTER?
SURE THING!

HEH...
NNGH ...!
DAMN, THAT'S *UGLY!*
E-EXCUSE ME, DID YOU KNOW SOME STRAY... *THING* IS IN HERE?
OH... HEH... THAT'S NOT A STRAY. THAT'S JUST *CATZILLA.*
SHE'S HARMLESS. DON'T LET HER BOTHER YOU.
UH... OKAY... . . . .
THIS... THIS *CREATURE* IS *MOST* UNUSUAL...

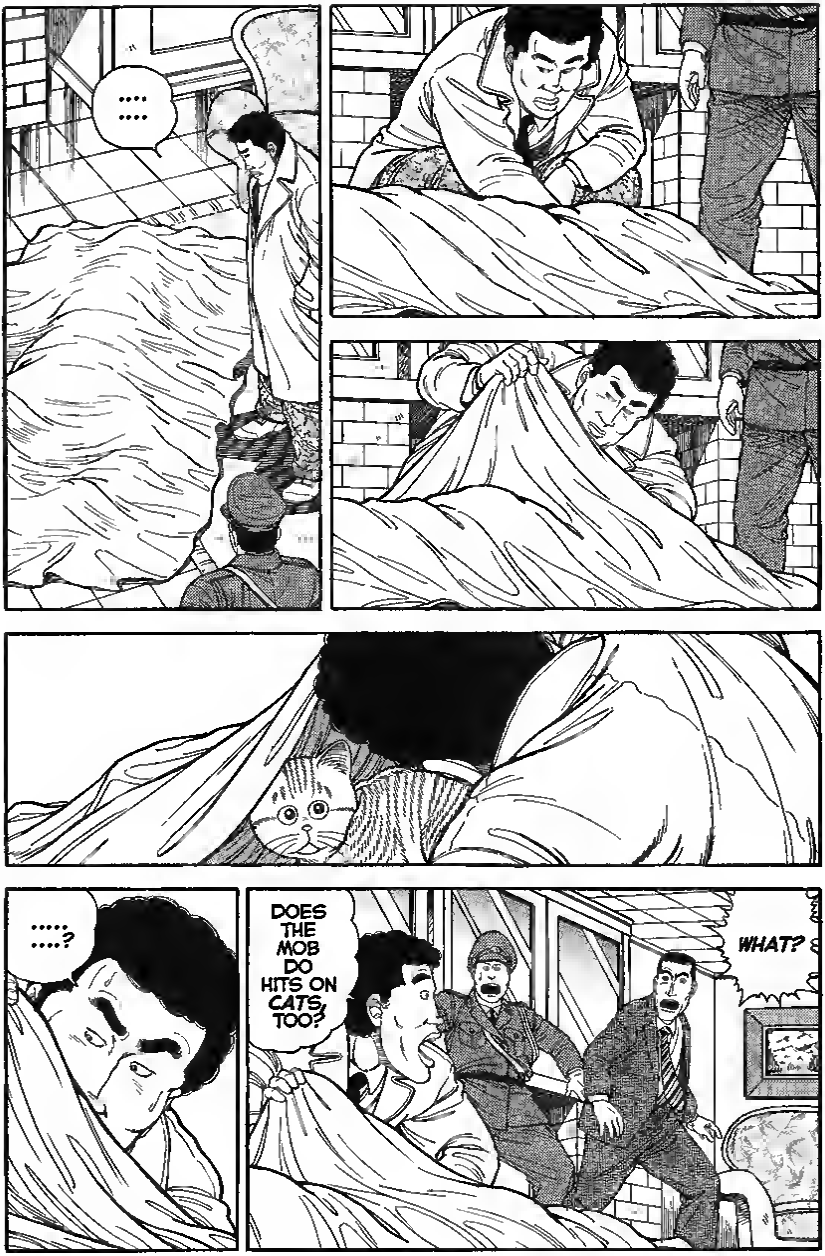

FWOP
SPLOT
HRM...
. . . .
RRR...
. . . .
. . . .
UYAHHH!
ID'S TRYINND
TUH EAD BE!
HEEELLB!
OH,
NO!
YURK!

DON'T STRUGGLE!
IF YOU PULL, SHE'LL REALLY CHOMP DOWN!
AAUUGHH!
BAD CATZILLA! YOU LET THE NICE MAN GO THIS INSTANT!
HELLO! I'M BACK!
ROKU SUSHI
SHAAK
OH, KENT! JUST IN TIME!
NAUGHTY CATZILLA'S DONE IT AGAIN!
MRG ...?!
I BINALLY GAWD YOU, GIMBLEE!
GIB UBB!!
AH? GER-ARDLY?!
YUHHR UNDRR UHRRESSD, GIMBLEE!
"UNDER-DRESSED" ...?
UHM UH DEDECTIB!
HEES UH KILLURH! HE ESCABED FRUM DEHTHBOW!
OH MY GOD!
N-NO! NOT KENT!

YOU'RE A LIAR!
KENT'S NOT A KILLER! HE SAVED CATZILLA'S LIFE WHEN SHE FELL OUT OF A TREE AND CRACKED HER HEAD!
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!!
WHAM
HARHHGG!
THIS FELLA'S NUTS, KENT! CATZILLA MUST'VE KNOWN!
HERE'S WHAT WE OWE YOU... NOW RUN! HURRY!
DABB ID ALL!
KUM BAAAGG!
RICHARD KIMBLY... PROFESSION: VETERINARIAN!
WHEN WILL HIS LIFE AS A FUGITIVE END...?

THE END

WEEOOO WEEOOO
THE CRIME SCENE
PAFF PAFF
THE CORONER ESTIMATES THIS STIFF WAS PUNCHED ABOUT 2:30.
IT'S A GUY WHO'D BEEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE MOB OVER A REAL ESTATE DEAL GONE BAD.
HMM. INTERESTING.


....
.....?
DOES THE MOB DO HITS ON CATS, TOO?
WHAT?

STUPID CAT! I TOLD YOU TO GET LOST!
YOU'RE MESSING UP MY CRIME SCENE!
....
....
TMP TMP TMP
YOWWR!
DETECTIVE YAMAMURA!
I THINK I'VE FOUND SOME PRINTS!
REALLY ...?!

ARGG! YOU DAMN CAT!
I'M GONNA RUN YOU IN TO THE STATION!
WOWW!
HMM... .....
HRM ...?
.....!
H-HEY! THIS COUCH IS STILL WARM!
THE PERP COULD STILL BE IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD!
UMM, NO, SIR. THE CAT WAS SLEEPING THERE WHEN WE CAME IN. SORRY.

WHOA!
SIR!! I FOUND SOMETHING!
DON'T TOUCH IT!
EVERYONE, STAND BACK!
NOBODY MOVE! DON'T TOUCH IT!

HMM...
.....
....
...?
SNIFF
GLLRK!
IT'S CAT POOP!
FREEZE, YOU STUPID CAT!
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

THE END

REMINDERS
K-CHIK
KREEER

KCHAK
OH ...!
I FORGOT! MICHAEL'S GONE!
I... I DON'T HAVE TO SNEAK IN ANYMORE SO HE CAN'T RUN OUT!
SOB! MY POOR MICHAEL!
VROOOO
AH ...?

M-MICHAEL'S CHESTNUT...
HIS FAVORITE ONE! HOW HE LOVED TO BAT IT AROUND...
OH, MICHAEL!
COME BACK TO ME!
CHKK
AH ...?
A LEFTOVER STICK OF CRAB MEAT...?

WHY DIDN'T I GIVE THIS TO MICHAEL WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE ?!
WAAH!
OH, MICHAELLL! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
HELLO...? DELIVERY, MISS. JUST NEED YER AUTO-GRAPH!
OF COURSE! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
SAY ...?
A LITTER BOX, HUH?
GOT A COUPLE CATS MYSELF!
OH! BUT...
SIGH

MY CAT...
...H-HE'S GONE.
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING?! I...I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FORGET!
OH MY GOSH! I'M REAL SORRY! WHEN DID HE...ER... "PASS AWAY"...?
WHAT?!
WHAT A HORRIBLE THING TO ASK! HOW DARE YOU?!
HE'S JUST AT THE VET OVERNIGHT FOR HIS SHOTS AND A FULL COURSE GROOMING, YOU AWFUL MAN!
S-SORRY, MISS! SORRY!
This day without Michael has been an absolute eternity.
But it's easier to bear when I know I can tell you about it. I hope your work is going well. Take care of yourself, Shinichiro.
Reiko Tachibana (Executive Secretary)

根岸探偵事務所
*NEGISHI DETECTIVE AGENCY
SHINICHIRO NEGISHI.
PRIVATE EYE.
HMM...LESSEE... "I'M GLAD YOU WROTE ME, REIKO. IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS QUITE LONELY FOR YOU WITHOUT YOUR MICHAEL." WHAT ELSE...? OH, YEAH...
"I AM BUYING A NEW CAR. PERHAPS MICHAEL AND YOU WOULD LIKE GO FOR A DRIVE SOMETIME...?"
FOR SOME MYSTERIOUS REASON, THE SECRETARY AND THE DETECTIVE HAD BEGUN TO CORRESPOND....

THE END

EARLY
AFTERNOON
MORNING
MORNING

MORNING
MORNING
MORNING
MORNING
.....
.....

MORNING
.....
.....?
MORNING
HMM...
.....

MORNING
MORNING
DAISY, WHERE YOU BEEN? LET'S GIT GOIN'!
MORNING
HM ...?
...!
HITOMI! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER!

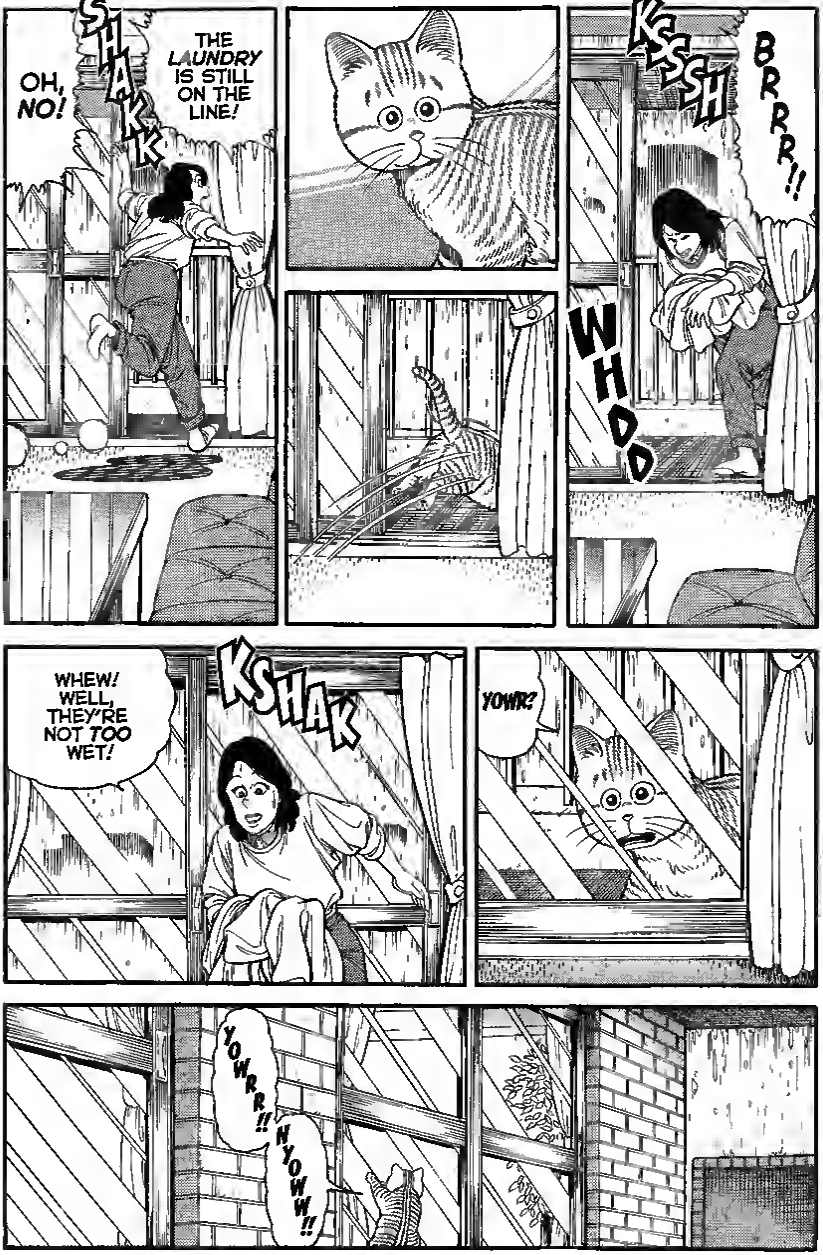
I'M SO SORRY! I KEEP TELLING HER NOT TO BOTHER YOU!
NO PROB-LEM.
YOUNG MAN, CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE TRAIN STATION IS?
ONE BLOCK THAT WAY, TURN RIGHT.
OH, GOOD... IT'S NOT TOO FAR. THANK YOU!
SURE.
....
....

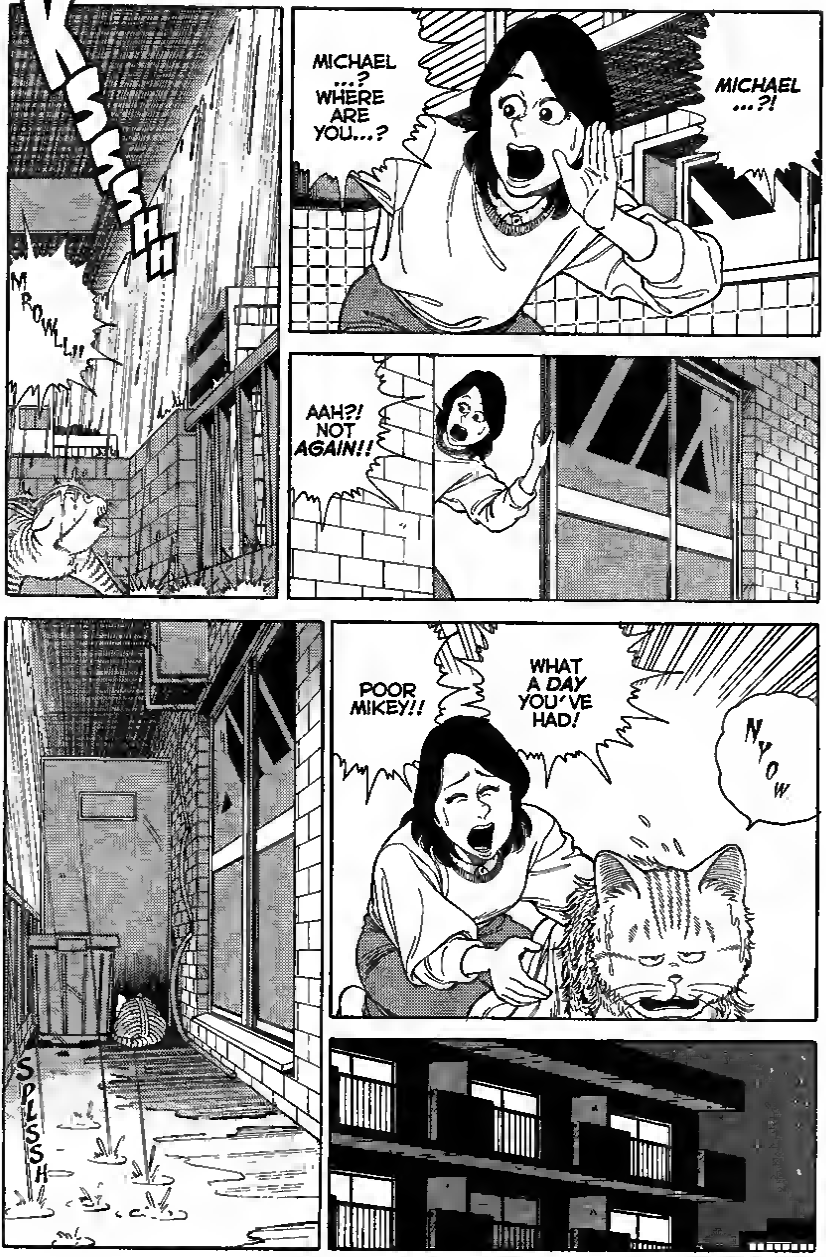
SPLSSHH
KRRSHH
HMM...
.....
THE END

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS
LAA DA DEE DEE DUM DUM...
SPLSH
AAH LAA DEE DAH DAH...
TUM TUM DEE TUM TUM...
TUM DEE DUM DUM DUM!
WHSH
MROWR?!

AAH!!
FROWW!!
SPLOOSH
I'M SORRY, MICHAEL!!
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ABOUT TO JUMP ON MY BACK!
YUM, DEE DA DA YUM!
YUM!
HOT STEW FOR LUNCH!
FWPP

AH ...!!
SPLORCH
NROWR!
EEK!!
OH, MIKE, I'M SO SORRY!
AND JUST WHEN YOU WERE ALL DRY AGAIN!
ROWR! FFTT!!
KSSSSH
AH...? RAIN?!


SHAKK
OH, NO!
THE LAUNDRY IS STILL ON THE LINE!
KSSH
BRRR!!
WHOO
WHEW! WELL, THEY'RE NOT TOO WET!
KSHAK
YOWR?
YOWR!!
WYOWW!!


KSSSSHH
MROWL!!
MICHAEL ...? WHERE ARE YOU...?
MICHAEL ...?!
AAH?! NOT AGAIN!!
SPLSSH
POOR MIKEY!!
WHAT A DAY YOU'VE HAD!
NYOW

SHINICHIRO NEGISHI.
PRIVATE EYE.
KCHAK!
I'M HOME, HUNNY-BUNNY!
WELCOME HOME, DARLING!
POOR MICHAEL HAD THE MOST TERRIBLE DAY!
WHAT? YOU'VE GOTTA WATCH THAT KITTY!
FOR SOME MYSTERIOUS REASON, THE SECRETARY AND THE DETECTIVE HAD GOTTEN MARRIED....
THE END

You know, it's amazing how round cats' faces are. Come to think of it, their eyes are round, and their paws are round, and their backs are round, and they curl up all round when they go to sleep. I wonder what they're thinking behind those round faces of theirs. Probably they're thinking: I'm hungry, or I'm cold, or hot, or sleepy...no big deal. Now here I am saying these things about them, and personally I have a square face. So I've got a square face, but when I'm thinking I'm hungry, or I'm cold, or hot, or sleepy, it's no big deal either. Which makes me wonder...when my cats look at me, are they thinking "Huh, he's got a square face"...? In either case, it doesn't look like any of us are thinking about much at all.

— Makoto Kobayashi

MANGA! MANGA! MANGA! DARK HORSE HAS THE BEST IN MANGA COLLECTIONS!

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMICS SHOP OR BOOKSTORE
To find a comics shop in your area, call 1-888-266-4226
For more information or to order direct visit darkhorse.com or call 1-800-862-0052
Mon.-Sat. 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Pacific Time

**Prices and availability subject to change without notice*

AKIRA
Katsuhiro Otomo
BOOK 1
ISBN 1-56971-498-3 $24.95
BOOK 2
ISBN 1-56971-499-1 $24.95
BOOK 3
ISBN 1-56971-525-4 $24.95
BOOK 4
ISBN 1-56971-526-2 $27.95
BOOK 5
ISBN 1-56971-527-0 $27.95
BOOK 6
ISBN 1-56971-528-9 $29.95

APPLESEED
Masamune Shirow
BOOK ONE
ISBN 1-56971-070-6 $16.95
BOOK TWO
ISBN 1-56971-071-6 $16.95
BOOK THREE
ISBN 1-56971-072-4 $17.95
BOOK FOUR
ISBN 1-56971-074-0 $17.95

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL
Hiroaki Samura
BLOOD OF A THOUSAND
ISBN 1-56971-239-5 $14.95
CRY OF THE WORM
ISBN 1-56971-300-6 $14.95
DREAMSONG
ISBN 1-56971-357-X $14.95
ON SILENT WINGS
ISBN 1-56971-412-6 $14.95
ON SILENT WINGS II
ISBN 1-56971-444-4 $14.95
DARK SHADOWS
ISBN 1-56971-469-X $14.95
HEART OF DARKNESS
ISBN 1-56971-531-9 $16.95
THE GATHERING
ISBN 1-56971-546-7 $15.95
THE GATHERING II
ISBN 1-56971-560-2 $15.95
BEASTS
ISBN 1-56971-741-9 $14.95

BUBBLEGUM CRISIS
Adam Warren and Toren Smith
GRAND MAL
ISBN 1-56971-120-5 $14.95

CANNON GOD EXAXXION
Kenichi Sonoda
ISBN 1-56971-745-1 $15.95

CARAVAN KIDD
John Manabe
VOLUME 1
ISBN 1-56971-260-3 $19.95
VOLUME 2
ISBN 1-56971-324-3 $19.95
VOLUME 3
ISBN 1-56971-338-3 $19.95

CLUB 9
Makoto Kobayashi
VOLUME 1
ISBN 1-56971-915-2 $15.95
VOLUME 2
ISBN 1-56971-958-3 $15.95

THE DIRTY PAIR
Adam Warren and Toren Smith
BIOHAZARDS
ISBN 1-56971-339-1 $12.95
DANGEROUS ACQUAINTANCES
ISBN 1-56971-227-1 $12.95
A PLAGUE OF ANGELS
ISBN 1-56971-029-5 $12.95
SIM HELL (REMASTERED)
ISBN 1-56971-742-7 $12.95
FATAL BUT NOT SERIOUS
ISBN 1-56971-172-0 $14.95

DOMINION
Masamune Shirow
ISBN 1-56971-488-6 $16.95

DOMU A CHILD'S DREAM
Katsuhiro Otomo
ISBN 1-56971-611-0 $17.95

GHOST IN THE SHELL
Masamune Shirow
ISBN 1-56971-081-3 $24.95

GUNSMITH CATS
Kenichi Sonoda
BONNIE AND CLYDE
ISBN 1-56971-215-8 $13.95
MISFIRE
ISBN 1-56971-253-0 $14.95
THE RETURN OF GRAY
ISBN 1-56971-299-9 $17.95

GOLDIE VS MISTY
ISBN 1-56971-371-5 $15.95
BAD TRIP
ISBN 1-56971-442-8 $13.95
BEAN BANDIT
ISBN 1-56971-453-3 $16.95
KIDNAPPED
ISBN 1-56971-529-7 $16.95
MISTER V
ISBN 1-56971-550-5 $16.95
MISTY'S RUN
ISBN 1-56971-684-6 $14.95

INTRON DEPOT
Masamune Shirow
INTRON DEPOT 1
ISBN 1-56971-095-6 $39.95
INTRON DEPOT 2: BLADES
ISBN 1-56971-382-0 $39.95

LONE WOLF & CUB
Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima
Collect the complete 28-volume series!
VOLUME 1: THE ASSASSIN'S ROAD
ISBN 1-56971-502-5 $9.95
VOLUME 2: THE GATELESS BARRIER
ISBN 1-56971-503-3 $9.95
VOLUME 3: THE FLUTE OF THE FALLEN TIGER
ISBN 1-56971-504-1 $9.95
VOLUME 4: THE BELL WARDEN
ISBN 1-56971-505-X $9.95
VOLUME 5: BLACK WIND
ISBN 1-56971-506-8 $9.95
VOLUME 6: LANTERNS FOR THE DEAD
ISBN 1-56971-507-6 $9.95
VOLUME 7: CLOUD DRAGON WIND TIGER
ISBN 1-56971-508-4 $9.95
VOLUME 8: CHAINS OF DEATH
ISBN 1-56971-509-2 $9.95
VOLUME 9: ECHO OF THE ASSASSIN
ISBN 1-56971-510-6 $9.95
VOLUME 10: HOSTAGE CHILD
ISBN 1-56971-511-4 $9.95
VOLUME 11: TALISMAN OF HADES
ISBN 1-56971-512-2 $9.95
VOLUME 12: SHATTERED STONES
ISBN 1-56971-513-0 $9.95
VOLUME 13: THE MOON IN THE EAST THE SUN IN THE WEST
ISBN 1-56971-585-8 $9.95
VOLUME 14: DAY OF THE DEMONS
ISBN 1-56971-586-6 $9.95
VOLUME 15: BROTHERS OF THE GRASS
ISBN 1-56971-587-4 $9.95
VOLUME 16: GATEWAY INTO WINTER
ISBN 1-56971-588-2 $9.95
VOLUME 17: THE WILL OF THE FANG
ISBN 1-56971-589-0 $9.95
VOLUME 18: TWILIGHT OF THE KUROKUWA
ISBN 1-56971-590-4 $9.95
VOLUME 19: THE MOON IN OUR HEARTS
ISBN 1-56971-591-2 $9.95
VOLUME 20: A TASTE OF POISON
ISBN 1-56971-592-0 $9.95
VOLUME 21: FRAGRANCE OF DEATH
ISBN 1-56971-593-9 $9.95
VOLUME 22: HEAVEN AND EARTH
ISBN 1-56971-594-7 $9.95
VOLUME 23: TEARS OF ICE
ISBN 1-56971-595-5 $9.95
VOLUME 24: IN THESE SMALL HANDS
ISBN 1-56971-596-3 $9.95
VOLUME 25: PERHAPS IN DEATH
ISBN 1-56971-597-1 $9.95
VOLUME 26: STRUGGLE IN THE DARK
ISBN 1-56971-598-X $9.95
VOLUME 27: BATTLE'S EVE
ISBN 1-56971-599-8 $9.95
VOLUME 28: THE LOTUS THRONE
ISBN 1-56971-600-5 $9.95

OH MY GODDESS!
Kosuke Fujishima
WRONG NUMBER
ISBN 1-56971-669-2 $13.95
LOVE POTION NO. 9
ISBN 1-56971-252-2 $14.95
SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL
ISBN 1-56971-323-4 $13.95
TERRIBLE MASTER URD
ISBN 1-56971-369-3 $14.95
ADVENTURES OF THE MINI GODDESSES
ISBN 1-56971-421-5 $9.95
THE QUEEN OF VENGEANCE
ISBN 1-56971-431-2 $13.95
MARA STRIKES BACK!
ISBN 1-56971-449-5 $14.95
NINJA MASTER
ISBN 1-56971-474-6 $13.95
MISS KETCHI
ISBN 1-56971-522-X $16.95
THE DEVIL IN MISS URD
ISBN 1-56971-540-8 $14.95
THE FOURTH GODDESS
ISBN 1-56971-551-3 $16.95
CHILDHOOD'S END
ISBN 1-56971-635-4 $15.95
QUEEN SAYOKO
ISBN 1-56971-766-4 $16.95

HAND IN HAND
ISBN 1-56971-921-7 $17.95
MYSTERY CHILD
ISBN 1-56971-950-0 $17.95

SERAPHIC FEATHER
Hiroyuki Utatane and Yo Morimoto
VOLUME 1: CRIMSON ANGEL
ISBN 1-56971-555-6 $17.95
VOLUME 2: SEEDS OF CHAOS
ISBN 1-56971-739-7 $17.95

SHADOW LADY
Masakazu Katsura
DANGEROUS LOVE
ISBN 1-56971-402-8 $17.95
THE AWAKENING
ISBN 1-56971-446-0 $15.95
SUDDEN DEATH
ISBN 1-56971-477-0 $14.95

SHADOW STAR
Mohiro Kitoh
VOLUME 1: STARFLIGHT
ISBN 1-56971-548-3 $15.95
VOLUME 2: DARKNESS VISIBLE
ISBN 1-56971-740-0 $14.95
VOLUME 3: SHADOWS OF THE PAST
ISBN 1-56971-743-5 $13.95
VOLUME 4: NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH
ISBN 1-56971-920-9 $14.95

3 x 3 EYES
Yuzo Takada
HOUSE OF DEMONS
ISBN 1-56971-930-6 $14.95
CURSE OF THE GESU
ISBN 1-56971-931-4 $14.95
FLIGHT OF THE DEMON
ISBN 1-56971-553-X $15.95
BLOOD OF THE SACRED DEMON
ISBN 1-56971-735-4 $13.95
KEY TO THE SACRED LAND
ISBN 1-56971-881-4 $13.95
SUMMONING OF THE BEAST
ISBN 1-56971-747-8 $14.95

WHAT'S MICHAEL?
Makoto Kobayashi
BOOK 5: MICHAEL'S FAVORITE SPOT
ISBN 1-56971-557-2 $8.95
BOOK 6: A HARD DAY'S LIFE
ISBN 1-56971-744-3 $8.95
BOOK 7: FAT CAT IN THE CITY
ISBN 1-56971-914-4 $8.95

What's Michael?

9 781569 719725 50895>

ISBN 1 56971 972-1 $8.95 U.S. www.darkhorse.com

Described as "Japan's version of Garfield, Heathcliff, and Krazy Kat all rolled into one," Makoto Kobayashi's **What's Micheel?** mixes all-too-real feline folly with hilarious fantasy scenarios to create one of graphic fiction's true comedic originals. From the upsides of leftovers and air conditioning to the downsides of litter boxes and neutering, the laughs proceed without delay. Even people who hate cats love **Whet's Michael?**!

"Sometimes fanciful, sometimes very well observed, and always humorous."
—Library Journal

WINNER OF 1990 NEW YORK LIBRARY AWARD AND 1997 PARENTS' CHOICE AWARD

STUDIO PROTEUS

DARK HORSE MANGA

SUPER MANGA BLAST!